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Book review

Hobbs' Food Poisoning and Food Hygiene. 7th Edition, Edited by Jim McLaughlin and Christine Little, Hodder Arnold, 2007, ISBN: 978 034 090 5302 (PB), Price £19. 99

The first edition of Hobbs' book published in 1953 aimed to provide essential facts about food poisoning and its prevention to all those involved in food production and preparation. The latest edition of this book has been completely revised and updated by a new team of writers. They have done a splendid job.

The first section of the book consists of seven chapters on the role of microbiology in food poisoning and describes the agents of food poisoning, their properties, food vehicles of infection and epidemiology. Water supply is covered for the first time here. The second section consists of 12 chapters on practical aspects of food hygiene and the prevention of food poisoning. Topics covered include hygienic practice for food handlers and industry, disinfection and cleaning, food premises and equipment, microbiological criteria and education. The final section consists of 13 chapters

on food poisoning in specific settings (e.g. ships, aircraft) and the role of specific professional groups (e.g. The Food Standards Agency, medical practitioners, environmental health officers, public sector laboratories) in the prevention of food poisoning.

The book is bang up to date and has clearly been written by experts who are active in their fields. The facts are presented in straightforward language and the standard of presentation is excellent. The book brings together, in one volume, all the disparate but connected aspects of the control of food poisoning from the organisms themselves through to the legal framework governing food production. At under £20 this is excellent value and I recommend it wholeheartedly.

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