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**Microbiology and Food**

B. J. Ford *Pp vii + 212*

*London: Northwood Publications*

*(Catering Times) 1971 £2.10*

*(boards) £1.75 (paper)*

'Microbiology and foodstuffs are two subjects that are inextricably concerned with mankind and his survival.'

'Being civilized is a highly unnatural state, and the consequences of it are equally sophisticated.'

These are two sentences from the preface to this fascinating and important book. Brian Ford has contrived a comprehensive treatment within a small compass, ranging from pests through practical microbiological techniques to legal aspects of hygiene control. There are many excellent photographs (some of them stomach-turning, and including one of a canned forefinger!) and useful tables, two interesting appendices on food values and food consumption, and a good index. Readers of *New Scientist* will already be familiar with Mr Ford's clear and forthright style, which is here enjoyably deployed in the cause of good food and good health. I hope the catering establishment likes this book; I strongly recommend its inclusion in any school library.

*Martyn Berry*

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