

Preface

This book is based on the Society for General Microbiology Symposium on 'Virulence Markers of *Escherichia coli*', which took place in Newcastle upon Tyne in the wake of the New Year celebrations in January 1983. The subtle change of title of this book from that of the Symposium is deliberate. The reviews are more extensive than those presented at the Symposium and more than two-thirds of the chapters are invited contributions, in addition to those delivered at the Symposium. Most of these chapters describe methods for the study of *E. coli* virulence that are widely dispersed in the literature. It is hoped that they will be useful to those who are new to 'coli virulence studies'. There may also be something here for the old hands.

As this book is sent on its way through the press, memories of a happy and profitable one-day symposium come to mind and especially the willing co-operation of all the contributors. Professor Harry Smith, who has generously written the Foreword, also provided many penetrating observations during the discussions. I am deeply grateful to him. My sincere thanks are also due to Sterilin Ltd., Feltham, Middlesex, England, for their generous assistance with part of the travelling expenses of the invited speakers at the symposium.

Publication of this book will take place during the centenary year of the discovery of *Bacterium coli commune* by Dr. Theodor Escherich. This happy coincidence constitutes these pages as a memorial to a great paediatrician and distinguished bacteriologist.

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