

In recent years considerable research has been devoted to that complex structure, the bacterial spore. Progress has been made in understanding the process of sporulation and the stages of germination and outgrowth which lead to vegetative cell development. One area of research with far-reaching applications in the fields of pharmacy, medical microbiology and food sciences is that of the destruction of the bacterial spore. This book discusses the factors affecting the activity of sporicidal agents, together with their possible applications.

An initial account of spore structure and development is followed by a detailed discussion of the various methods and mechanisms of spore inactivation or resistance. Individual chapters describe one type of action, such as moist or dry heat, ionizing or ultraviolet radiations, liquid-phase or vapour-phase antibacterial agents and hydrostatic pressure. Every type of procedure is studied throughout with consideration of its advantages, disadvantages and possible applications. Each passage is also accompanied by an appropriate bibliography, with a number of figures and tables as supporting material. Of particular current interest are the final two chapters, the first on the possible use of combined treatments (including thermoradiation) and the other on the recovery and revival of damaged spores.

This book is the first to deal comprehensively and exclusively with the sensitivity and resistance of the bacterial spore. It will be very useful and informative to research and quality control scientists in the field of spore destruction, especially in the pharmaceutical and food industries. The volume will also be of interest to hospital infection control workers, as well as to academics in relevant disciplines.



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