

Preface

The first three volumes of this treatise deal with the various aspects of bacterial protein toxins. In Volume I stress has been placed on the most significant problems generated by prolonged and productive research on these toxins and the foremost approaches developed for their solution. Comprehensive description and analysis of what is known about each specific toxin as well as guidelines and directions for the future have been relegated to Volumes II and III. The rationale underlying the distribution of the individual toxins in Volumes II and III has been set forth in the Preface to Volume III.

It has always been our intent to include in this volume a chapter on diphtheria toxin, one of the most extensively investigated and well-understood proteins (at least with respect to site and mode of action) that are liberated by bacteria. However, Dr. Masahiko Yoneda, who agreed to become involved in this undertaking and devoted much of his time and effort to it, became seriously ill before his task was completed and could not continue. In order to avoid delay in publication, this topic is not included in this volume, now designated IIA. A supplemental volume, IIB, devoted exclusively to diphtheria toxin and authored by Alwin M. Pappenheimer, Jr., will be forthcoming within the near future.

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