

Catalogue of the National Collection of Type Cultures – 1972

It is a pleasure to welcome the fifth edition of this Catalogue, the first full catalogue since 1936, although the gap has been partly filled by a *List of Species Maintained* (1948) and a *Catalogue of Species* (1958).

The N.C.T.C. keeps freeze-dried strains of bacteria of medical and veterinary interest. Stocks of other organisms are held by nine similar institutions in the United Kingdom; their addresses are listed in this catalogue.

The introduction provides essential information for those who use the collection, including definitions of terms found in the catalogue and a description of the arrangement of its entries.

The conditions under which cultures are supplied to bacteriologists, and the proper ordering procedure, are clearly stated. Explicit directions are provided on opening ampoules, the removal of cultures and storage of unopened cultures.

The body of the catalogue (Section A) consists of some 3000 N.C.T.C. strains arranged in an alphabetical list of species. A numerical index of currently-held strains is also provided (Section B). There is a separate section (C) in which are listed the strains recommended for antibiotic, disinfectant and sterilisation tests.

The Catalogue of the National Collection of Type Cultures – 1972 [289 + xxiii pages, price £2.50 net] is available from Her Majesty's Stationery Offices or through booksellers.