Oswald T. Avery Bibliography

Amsterdamska, Olga "From Pneumonia to DNA: The Research Career of Oswald T. Avery," In ***Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences.*** 1993. 24: 1-40.

Austrian, Robert "Oswald T. Avery: The Wizard of York Avenue," In ***The American Journal of Medicine.*** 1999. 107: 7-11.

Dubos, René J. ***The Professor, the Institute, and DNA.*** New York: Rockefeller University Press, 1976. 238 pp.

- Dubos, a former member of Avery's department, presents Avery as a sympathetic intellectual, simultaneously gracious and charming while resentful of intrusions into his privacy. The text covers Avery's childhood through his research at the Rockefeller Institute and reclusive retirement. The institute, the second focus of the book, is also presented in a flattering light.

Hotchkiss, Rollin D. "The Identification of Nucleic Acids as Genetic Determinants," in ***The Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences.*** 1979. 325: 321-342.

- A brief yet insightful history of the "DNA Revolution" between 1930 and 1956 by this member of Avery's group at the Rockefeller Institute. Fully appreciating the article requires a strong foundation in the science of genetics. However, Hotchkiss' comprehensive footnotes should lead lay readers towards helpful reference works. It perhaps is best utilized as a compliment to McCarty's more approachable version of the story.

Hunter, Graeme K. ***Vital Forces: The Discovery of the Molecular Basis of Life.*** San Diego: Academic - Press, 2000. 364 pp.

- Hunter tells the story of the biochemical revolution by tracing 200 years of scientific history concerning the efforts to understand the chemical secrets of the living cell. He outlines the conceptual and theoretical advances leading to the discovery of the "molecular basis of life." To achieve this, the narrative focuses on the work of major figures, including Pasteur, Mendel, Pauling, and Crick. It contains a short section that specifically addresses Avery's contribution to this process.

Judson, Horace Freeland. ***The Eighth Day of Creation: Makers of the Revolution in Biology.*** New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979/1996. 686/714 pp.

- Judson's comprehensive survey is considered by many to be the official history of molecular biology. This authoritative text is rich in detail yet is not overburdened by scientific jargon. Judson capably portrays the sometimes dramatic search for the secret of life by a cast of brilliant—yet often eccentric and complex—scientists and researchers. The revised and expanded 1996 edition includes new material and explores the movement of molecular biology into the era of recombinant DNA.

Lederberg, Joshua. "The Dawning of Molecular Genetics," in ***Trends in Microbiology.*** May 2000. 8, 5:194-195.

Maas, Werner. ***Gene Action: A Historical Account.*** New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. 161 pp.

- This short history of genetic research from Mendel to the present places Avery's research in context and includes a brief yet informative bibliography.

McCarty, Maclyn. ***The Transforming Principle: Discovering that Genes are Made of DNA.*** New York: WW Norton, 1985. 252 pp.

- McCarty, one-third of the team (along with Avery and Colin Macleod) that first identified the agent of transformation in pneumococcus as DNA, wrote this insightful and revealing first-hand account. The vignettes and anecdotes of Avery are humorous and touching. McCarty devotes a generous portion of the book to discussing the impact of the 1944 paper, especially on geneticists.

Russell, Nicholas. "Oswald Avery and the Origin of Molecular Biology," in ***British Journal for the History of Science.*** 1988. 21: 393-400.

Severs, Vesta-Nadine, and Jim Whiting. ***Oswald Avery and the Story of DNA.*** Bear, DE: Mitchell Lane, 2002. 48 pp.

- This fairly short book is intended for elementary school children. In it, the authors explain how Avery's research laid the groundwork for modern genetics. The text relies heavily on Dubos' ***The Professor, the Institute, and DNA***. Contains a glossary of terms.