Preface

The chapters in this book are invited papers read at a symposium at Cornell University in July 1986. This Plutonian satellite of the 30th International Congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences held in Vancouver, Canada, was originally billed as Comparative Aspects of Physiology of Digestion in Ruminants. The committee, however, decided to make its scope more general. We tried to complement the program of the 6th International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology, held in Banff in 1984, by treating some topics that deserved a hearing but that the usual constraints on program size had precluded from the Banff gathering. This book thus will supplement the reviews from these quinquennial symposia which have proved standbys to researchers and graduate students interested in the fundamentals of microbiology, physiology, and metabolism in the ruminant gastrointestinal tract. It will also serve as a standard reference for scientists investigating the nutritional and veterinary aspects of these important food animals.

This symposium was the sequel to a successful informal meeting on ruminant physiology held in conjunction with the 29th International Congress in Sydney, Australia. Papers from that meeting were published in the *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Physiology* in 1984.

The Cornell symposium was attended by 136 registrants from five continents. Abstracts for posters were submitted and printed in advance of the meeting. The 33 titles of posters exhibited during the two poster sessions at the symposium are listed at the back of the book.

The conference received financial support from the following companies:

Agway Inc.
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Bovine Research Center
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
College of Veterinary Medicine
Division of Biological Sciences

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Aspects of Digestive Physiology in Ruminants