

La mise en évidence d'une perturbation des processus métaboliques comme condition essentielle de l'apparition des réactions inflammatoires découle de cette analyse. Les troubles de la perméabilité s'expliqueraient par une atteinte cellulaire primordiale, dont le déterminisme humoral ou endocrinien semble très secondaire.

Les conceptions de Kelemen s'avèrent originales et, par là même, prêteront sûrement à discussion. Rappelons simplement que pour Roskam et son école, la salicylothérapie en clinique humaine dépend avant tout d'une stimulation cortico-surrénale, qui a échappé aux moyens d'investigation mis en oeuvre jusqu'ici par l'auteur hongrois.

Mais quelles que soient les divergences entre les opinions de l'auteur et celles des autres chercheurs, les travaux de Kelemen ont le mérite d'envisager les phénomènes inflammatoires sous un aspect biochimique et physiopathologique nouveau qu'il ne faudra plus, désormais, méconnaître. Il faut cependant regretter que l'auteur ait adopté une présentation trop analytique de ses recherches, laissant ainsi au lecteur le soin d'un effort de synthèse parfois malaisé.

J. LECOMTE

E. GURR: *Encyclopaedia of Microscopic Stains*. Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, Maryland, 1960. 498 pp. \$18.50.

RIDING the crest of the present popular wave of books devoted to methodology comes this one which is an "encyclopaedia" (quotes mine) of stains and dye stuffs used in histological practice. The book is adequate in relation to its intended purposes—a reference and laboratory guide on the application, structure, composition, molecular weights and properties of a large number of dyes and other reagents used in microscopic anatomy. However, the position of the reviewer is that of one who feels inundated by the wave and hence the following reaction:

As a laboratory guide there are already too many books currently available that surpass it. About one-half of the space of the book is devoted to formulae of dyes and reagents. These can be found elsewhere. And as concerns the interest and importance of structural formulae to the morphologically schooled audience for which it is intended, unfortunate as it may be, this score is almost zero. Is the book a catalog for the Michrome Laboratories? All of the dyes and reagents except a very few like iodine are given a Michrome number and only in a few cases are adequate synonyms given for the names of dyes. Dyes are listed alphabetically instead of being classified by chemical structure. Diazonium salts are listed primarily by Michrome number; synonyms and formula are given secondarily. Like the dyes that have no Michrome number, other diazotates are not worthy of listing. Tetrazolium salts are inadequately handled; only three are mentioned and these do not include Nitro B.T., the most useful and popular one. Shall I go on—or you pays your money and you takes your choice.

RUSSELL J. BARNETT

M. STACEY and S. A. BARKER: *Polysaccharides of Micro-organisms*. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1960, ix 228 pp.

THE increasing importance attributed to polysaccharides in various fields of microbiology fully justifies the publication of a book gathering and co-ordinating the available information on those substances which, at the present time, is widely scattered in a large number of scientific journals. Stacey and Barker's book, a concise compendium of our knowledge of microbial polysaccharides, written by fully competent chemists whose personal researches have substantially added to that knowledge, will therefore be welcomed by all microbiologists, although it cannot be expected to include the latest developments of a rapidly growing field of investigation.

The first five chapters deal adequately, albeit summarily, with general properties: nomenclature of carbohydrates, components of polysaccharides and biosynthesis, functions of polysaccharides, methods for isolation and, finally, for structural determination of polysaccharides.

The last seven chapters are devoted to a detailed study of the polysaccharides produced by various groups of micro-organisms: Rickettsiae and viruses, Gram-negative bacteria, Gram-positive bacteria, higher bacteria, moulds, yeasts and yeast-like fungi, Protozoa. They give, in a condensed form, a large amount of valuable chemical and physical data with full reference to original papers and will, therefore, be a very useful source of information for the specialist. So will be Appendix I which lists the physical constants of the monosaccharide constituents of microbial polysaccharides. A well prepared subject index makes the book easy to consult.

The reviewer feels less happy about some statements that are, however, of a microbiological rather than of a biochemical nature. For example, he cannot agree that: "generally speaking Gram-negatives produce highly potent immunizing fractions and are resistant to many antibiotics while Gram-positives produce relatively transient immunizing fractions and are highly susceptible to antibiotics" (p. 23), or that: "In some Gram-positive cocci (e.g. *Pneumococci*), deoxyribonucleic acid is a *surface* (reviewer's italics) component playing a highly important role in specific polysaccharide synthesis" (p. 23). He also believes that it cannot be stated as a *general* rule that: "The presence of a capsule is one of the conditions for the virulence of a cell" (p. 24).

M. WELSCH