

*Advances in Protein Chemistry*, Volume VII, edited by M. L. ANSON, KENNETH BAILEY AND JOHN T. EDSALL, Academic Press, New York, 1952, viii + 411 pages, 87 illustrations, \$ 8.50.

This volume of the well-known series of *Advances in Protein Chemistry* opens with a very instructive treatment of methods and results concerning the arrangement of amino acids in proteins by F. SANGER. The structure of component B of the insulin molecule is discussed in detail. Apparently the review has been written before the work on component A had been finished. R. S. BEAR discusses the structure of collagen fibrils, mainly from the point of view of the application of X-rays and electron microscopy, but the available chemical data are also included. In a chapter on muscle contraction and fibrous muscle proteins H. H. WEBER AND H. PORTZEHL contribute a very lucid and comprehensive review of the properties of contractile models and the thermodynamics in these models, the isolation and properties of the myofibril proteins and the fine structure of skeletal muscle. The available data are assembled in very useful tables. Many workers will also be obliged to K. M. RUDALL for his review of the structure and the proteins of the mammalian epidermis. The volume closes with chapters on infrared analysis of the structure of amino acids, polypeptides and proteins by G. B. B. M. SUTHERLAND, and ultraviolet absorption spectra of proteins and amino acids by G. H. BEAVEN AND E. R. HOLIDAY, chapters which will appear to be very welcome to those concerned with protein analysis. Altogether this volume maintains the high standard of the preceding volumes of this series.

H. G. K. WESTENBRINK (Utrecht)

*The Principles of Line Illustration*, by L. N. STANILAND, A.R.C.S., D.I.C., A.R.W.A, Burke Publishing Company Ltd., London, 1952, xii and 212 pages, 166 illustrations. 25 s net.

On the shelves of the scientist, this book is a strange bird, but how welcome it must be to those who are struggling with the problem of producing suitable line illustrations for their publications! Few people would be better qualified to write a book like this one than its present author who is a biologist as well as an artist and who, in addition, has the gift of a clear and straightforward style of writing.

In five chapters (Techniques in line drawing; Aids to accurate drawing; The use of colour; Graphs, diagrams and maps; Some help with lettering) and an Appendix (Hints and tips) the subject matter is clearly set out, helping students and research workers to overcome the difficulties met with when making line drawings, either for their own use or for reproduction.

The present reviewer happens to know from almost daily experience how very divergent the quality of illustrations submitted with scientific manuscripts can be. To some authors of books and—honestly speaking—of papers for these *Acta*, he would like to say: let STANILAND be your guide for future illustrative material. The book is full of valuable hints, and, although the professional draughtsman may have different views on some details, it will excellently serve its purpose of indicating the traps for the unwary.

One hint might have usefully been added: when sending the finished drawings to the editor together with the manuscript of book or paper, don't stick the drawings in the manuscript, and don't write the legends directly underneath the drawing, but list them separately; the drawing and its legend have to go a different way, the former to the blockmaker, the latter to the printer.

The book is very beautifully produced, paper, printing, binding, jacket, all are exemplary. Small wonder that the same can be said of the numerous line illustrations.

W. GAADE (Amsterdam)