

## BOOK REVIEWS

*The Vitamins, Chemistry, Physiology, Pathology*, edited by W. H. SEBRELL, JR. AND ROBERT S. HARRIS. Vol. I, xiii + 676 pp., Academic Press Inc., New York, 1954. Price \$ 16.50.

This is the first volume of a comprehensive handbook of Vitamins in three volumes, the publication of which will be warmly applauded by nutritionists, biochemists, biologists and medical men, in short by every one who, by the nature of his scientific work or his teaching, has to do with vitamins. Since several years it was felt as a great want in our libraries that no authoritative and comprehensive treatise of the vitamins existed. This deficiency has now been supplied in a very happy manner.

No vitamin has been treated by one author only. A chapter dealing with a certain vitamin has, with minor variations, been divided into sections on Nomenclature and Formula, Chemistry, Industrial Preparation, Biochemical Systems, Biogenesis, Estimation, Standardization, Occurrence in Food, Effects of Deficiency, Pathology, Pharmacology, Requirements, etc. For each of these sections a specialist was invited to contribute. The demands imposed upon the available space are too large to give the complete list of all contributors to Vol. I. But the expert knowledge of the Editors guarantees an excellent choice.

The vitamins treated in Vol. I are Vitamins A (and Carotenes), Ascorbic acid, Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> and Biotin.

The reviewer wishes to congratulate Editors and Publishers with the appearance of this volume and to express his hope that the next volumes may soon follow.

H. G. K. WESTENBRINK (Utrecht)

*The Mechanism of Enzyme Action*, A Symposium sponsored by the McCollum-Pratt Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, edited by WILLIAM D. McELROY AND BENTLEY GLASS. xvi + 819 pp., The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1954. Price \$ 11.00.

In this volume the papers and discussions of a symposium on the Mechanism of Enzyme Action, held under the sponsorship of the McCollum Pratt Institute in June 1953, have been collected. Previous symposia of this institute have been published in two Volumes entitled *Phosphorus Metabolism*, which are to be counted among the most important recent literature concerning this subject, considering the fact that they are very frequently referred to. In the reviewer's opinion this will also be the case with the volume now lying on his desk. The scientists that are best known in the field covered by the symposium have contributed to it by reading papers or taking part in the discussions. The sections composing the book deal with the subjects: "Protein Configuration and Biological Activity", "Kinetics of Enzyme-Catalysed Reactions", "The Functions of Metals in Enzyme Catalysis", "The Mechanism of Electron and Hydrogen Transport", "The Function of Enzymes in Group Transfer". The book closes with a summing up of the matter under discussion by BENTLEY GLASS, who has already won his spurs as regards the fulfilment of this far from easy task.

May this short notice assist in drawing the attention of all biochemists to the publication of this symposium book.

H. G. K. WESTENBRINK (Utrecht)

*Makromoleculaire Chemie*, par KURT H. MEYER ET H. MARK, Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft Geest und Portig K.G., Leipzig 1953, xxiv et 1026 pages, 229 figures, D.M. 58.—.

Il y a deux ans disparaissait le Professeur KURT H. MEYER qui fut un de ceux qui ont le plus contribué à ériger la science des molécules géantes par ses travaux personnels et par ses ouvrages.