

BOOK REVIEWS

The Lipids. Their Chemistry and Biochemistry, by HARRY J. DEUEL Jr., Volume II. Biochemistry, Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, 1955, xxvi + 919 pp., Price \$ 25.

The present volume encompasses the available information on the digestion, absorption, transport (in blood and lymph) and storage of fats and other lipids in the animal body. It also includes some topics of a more chemical nature such as the properties, composition and behaviour of the lipases and lipoxidasis, and an account of the chemistry of bile acids.

After discussing the digestion and gastrointestinal absorption of lipids the author reviews work on the transport in the blood—sections being allocated to variations found in health and disease—and goes on to the consideration of lipid storage in the tissues, of factors which modify this and of the nature of the fat deposited in specific tissues or organs. In each chapter the changes of the fats, phospholipids, sterols, carotenoids and fat-soluble vitamins are considered in separate sections.

In this book in general no analytical procedures are quoted; the reader will search in vain for details for methods of estimating *e.g.* fat and cholesterol in blood. Only methods and references are given for the general study of absorption of fats and lipids and also for the estimation of digestibility and for the determination of the lipid content of animals, including man.

The survey of contents and the indexes of authors and of subjects take up no less than 120 pages; so the immense amount of information (about 4,200 references up to 1953) presented in this book has been made readily accessible.

Although the author often avoids giving his own opinion on controversial subjects his presentation of the text is so well arranged and so nicely balanced that it is far from being merely a catalogue of facts. It is a handbook in the best sense of that word, one which will seldom be consulted without profit and one which will be of great value to biochemists and to medical workers.

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Wool, its Chemistry and Physics, by PETER ALEXANDER AND ROBERT F. HUDSON, Chapman & Hall, London, 1954, 404 pp., 137 illustrations, price 45s.

The less initiated reader may expect nothing but chemistry and physics in the book under review. The wool research-worker, however, will undoubtedly think it most inadvisable to write a book on wool without going into the morphology of the fibre. Consequently, in the first chapter the authors have given a thorough introduction on morphology, thus adding greatly to the lucidity of the book as a whole.

Apart from the first chapter, which is of course specific for wool, the book may be considered highly valuable for those working in the field of protein research and is a most valuable compilation of the literature written on wool.

The work provides us with an excellent survey of wool research which was indeed urgently needed.

Particularly satisfying are Chapters V (Rate processes with the fibre), VI (Acid base characteristics), VIII (The disulphide bond), and X (Formation of new cross-links), which fact will no doubt be due to the many investigations carried out by the authors in these fields.

The value of the book, however, would have been greater still if in some chapters (*e.g.* I (The morphological structure), XI (Chemical composition), and XII (Stereo-chemistry and macromolecular structure)), the subjects had been dealt with somewhat more critically. Chapters VII (Ion exchange, and Dyeing equilibria), VIII (The disulphide bond), and IX (Chemical reactivity) are of general interest to chemists engaged in protein research.

Wool research is developing greatly of late owing to better methods of investigation and to an intensified research in Australia; hence a second supplementary edition may soon be needed.

G. J. SCHURINGA (Delft)