

il s'agit là d'un chapitre particulièrement important, où sont mentionnées d'une façon heureuse les techniques modernes de protection du groupement aminé et les procédés d'activation du groupement aminé et les procédés d'activation du groupement carboxyle. Le même volume indique les méthodes générales de synthèse des chaînes isopréniques et se termine par une note pratique concernant l'obtention de divers intermédiaires lors des synthèses peptidiques.

Les trois volumes en question, comme les volumes précédents de la même collection, sont illustrés d'excellentes microphotographies, comportent de nombreux tableaux, et sont accompagnés d'une abondante bibliographie. Le volume X contient en outre une table des matières récapitulative des volumes VI à X. Peut-être, au moment où la parution du volume X achève cette série de publications, n'est-il pas inopportun de revenir sur l'ensemble des dix volumes qui la constitue: Ces dix volumes contiennent une masse considérable de données expérimentales des plus précieuses aussi bien pour le chimiste organicien que pour le biochimiste. La qualité matérielle de la présentation, la précision des données bibliographiques, l'absence de toute erreur typographique, font que cette collection peut être recommandée comme un excellent outil de travail.

C. FROMAGEOT (Paris)

*Cellular Metabolism and Infections*, Symposium held at the New York Academy of Medicine, March 4th and 5th, 1954, edited by E. RACKER, Academic Press Inc., New York, 1954, 176 pp., 12 illus., price \$ 4.80.

The symposium consists of two parts of which the second—metabolic aspects of the infectious process—indeed covers the subject mentioned in the title of the symposium. DUBOS discusses the action of the antibiotic and symbiotic factors of the host on the parasite. A brilliant paper by PAPPENHEIMER describes the toxins of perthotrophic parasites and the possible way in which extra- and intra-cellular pathogenic bacteria produce disease. ADAMS, in a paper of remarkable lucidity discusses the way in which viruses are adsorbed and enter cells, using T phages and influenza virus as main instances. LURIA treats the biochemistry of intracellular phage reproduction. RACKER discusses the metabolism of infected cells and fascinates the reader with the story of his stubborn work on the metabolism of brain cells infected with Lansing virus. From the other contributions a stimulating paper by BLOCH on the intracellular survival of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* should be mentioned. LWOFF closes the symposium with concluding remarks in his own style.

The first part of the symposium—aspects of comparative biochemistry—aims at a discussion of "Unity or Disunity" in biochemistry.

Biochemistry in the last 30 years has profited much from the concept of "Unity in biochemistry", whereas chemotherapy stresses the specific metabolic differences (qualitative or quantitative) between parasite and host cells.

STANIER, in his delightful way, discusses the differences in composition of micro-organisms. BUEDEL stresses singular features of helminth-metabolism. KREBS gives one of his integrative surveys and stresses the uniformity of energy-yielding reactions. KNOX reports on the metabolic adaptation in host cells, induced by substrates and hormones. WELCH discusses metabolic approaches to chemotherapy and points out that neither is the metabolic approach wholly rational nor the empirical approach devoid of intelligence. COHEN attacks the concept of "Unity in biochemistry" by citing instances of different pathways for the synthesis of the same substance or of the influence of external conditions on the relative importance of the two major pathways of carbohydrate breakdown.

The (informal) discussion on "unity or disunity" is not very illuminating as the obvious synthesis of "unity by diversity" was not attained. The conflict really is between two scientific attitudes. Some scientists look for similarities and try to generalize, accepting the inherent errors of any generalisation; others look for dissimilarities and specialize in detail. Both attitudes, unless carried to the extreme, are valuable and complementary instead of conflicting.

On the whole the book contains a number of valuable papers, with several outstanding contributions by famous scientists, reviewing our knowledge of the biochemistry of infectious processes and it is worth reading by anyone who takes a scientific or educational interest in these phenomena.

K. C. WINKLER (Utrecht)