the literature published prior to 1970, whilst the editors' suggestion that *Methods in Carbohydrate Chemistry*, Volume IV, should be used as a companion volume to this review for the analytical and experimental procedures involved is without comprehension. Does this imply that no new methodologies have been developed since 1964? The inclusion of a description of the more modern techniques would have made this good book into an excellent one. The relatively high price must be taken into account in this respect and regrettably the cost is beyond the real limit for personal purchase.

This text is, within the limitations described, a useful text for practising scientists in academia or industry, qualified non-experts who require an introduction to the subject and those students who wish to gain a detailed coverage of the chemistry and industrial applications of starch.

John. F. Kennedy
Charles A. White

Cellulose, Structure, Modification and Hydrolysis. Edited by R. A. Young and R. M. Powell. John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1986. 379 pp. Price £61.75.

In their introduction the authors state that the objective of the book is to cover recent developments in cellulose chemistry and technology through experts in the field. The 20 chapters are divided into four parts entitled Cellulose Structure and Biosynthesis, Cellulose Modification, Cellulose Liquid Crystals and Cellulose Hydrolysis and Degradation. Because it concentrates on these topics rather than attempting to cover all aspects of cellulose science, the book has more coherence than many edited volumes.

The book is dedicated to Professor R. D. Preston who has contributed the first chapter on natural celluloses. The high standard of this is matched by many of the subsequent 19 chapters. It is clear that the editors have selected their contributors wisely. The standard of presentation is excellent and the authors are to be congratulated in achieving their stated objectives and making a significant contribution to the literature.

J. R. Mitchell