

will be of particular interest to biochemists, molecular biologists, X-ray crystallographers and industrialists.

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Functional Foods, the Consumer, the Products, and the Evidence; M.J. Sadler, M. Saltmarsh (Eds.); The Royal Society of Chemistry, 1998, 215 pages, ISBN 0-85404-792-1

Recently, government committees, the media, as well as the general public, have all showed interest and concern to diet and health. Consequently, the food industry have concentrated and researched, to develop products with positive nutritional benefits, to equilibrate with society's concerns. Food and diet are significantly fundamental to today's lifestyle and should be considered seriously.

Functional foods: the consumer, the products and the evidence, is the latest publication from The Royal Society of Chemistry. This scientifically sound publication provides a comprehensive, up to date and authoritative understanding of such areas as; evidence for the benefit of dietary fibre, fermented dairy products and fish oils, approaches to assessing the adequacy of scientific evidence, consumer health concerns, and the current regulatory position.

The text is aimed at a wide market; ranging from degree through to research level. It would also be found useful to those interested in nutrition and food development in general, as a reference text.

The text, where relevant, is aided by well presented diagrams, orthodox tables and references. The tables and diagrams within the text under review are presented in such a manner that they are easy to follow and therefore aid the understanding of the subject in hand.

Overall this book is well presented, a good length (having 215 pages), thorough and a very readable text. Over all it can be classed as a fine publication.

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Environmental Chemistry, 3rd ed.; P. O'Neill (Ed.); Blackie academic and Professional Publications, London, 1998, ISBN 0 7514 04837 (£15.99)

As knowledge of the earth's chemical environment has increased, there is still ever-increasing concern on the role of chemical elements in the synthesis and decomposition of natural materials, including the changes specifically brought about by human activities. Hence, capabilities of these activities to cause major disturbances of the natural environment. A prime example of these disruptions is the decline in stratospheric ozone concentrations. It is therefore important to understand the operation of such natural systems, and how human activities can modify these systems.

Environmental Chemistry is the latest edition from Blackie academic and Professional Publications, which gives a comprehensive, up-to-date (including new information, for example, on Uranium and nuclear energy), and authoritative understanding of certain fields of environmental chemistry, such as, the problems of nuclear waste; landfill chemistry; oil production; ozone depletion and the greenhouse effect, and hence, attempts to explain why a specific change occurs and why a particular pathway has been followed.

Presented with relevant and precise information, the book provides a brief introduction to environmental chemistry in a four part format which allows the grouping together of related environmental topics and the introduction of theoretical concepts.

Aiding the literature are useful references to key sources, as well as edifying tables, diagrams, equations, graphs and a clearly layed-out glossary. Each of these illustrations is well presented; relevant as well as scientifically accurate.

As this well-produced literature assumes only an elementary knowledge of chemistry, it is therefore focused for students studying environmental science at degree level.

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Concise Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Engineering; J.I. Kroschwitz (Ed.); John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, 1998, 1341 pages, ISBN 0-471-31856-6 £63.95

There is a vast amount of information available on a