

Book review

The Carbohydrates: Chemistry and Biochemistry. Second Edition, Volume IIB, edited by WARD PIGMAN AND DEREK HORTON (Assistant Editor ANTHONY HERP). Academic Press, New York and London, 1970, xvi + 383 pages + Author and Subject Indexes, \$26.00.

Following Volume IIA, this book is part of the up-to-date edition of the original "The Carbohydrates" edited by Ward Pigman. Its usefulness is beyond doubt. Relevant information is presented in an organized, topical fashion. The chapter on Analytical Methods for Carbohydrates is comprehensive and extremely useful; it alone could justify purchase of the book. The chapter on Bacterial and Fungal Polysaccharides is fairly complete in its information, but this reviewer found somewhat disappointing the lack of information on what is now believed to be the arrangement of the macromolecules in the bacterial cell-wall. The publication date of 1970 does not mean that the literature reviewed is quite as recent as that. It is realized that the logistics of assembling a work of this nature involves numerous delays and bottlenecks, and publication of Volumes IIA and IIB before Volume I is presumably a reflection there of; nevertheless, there are several instances of important work dating from as early as 1968 which could apparently not be included in this volume.

However, access to the book is essential for anyone with an interest in the chemistry and biochemistry of carbohydrates — student, teacher, and researcher alike. The eminence of the contributors makes this an authoritative treatise; it contains ten chapters: Starch and Glycogen (C. T. Greenwood); Pectins, Plant Gums, and Other Plant Polysaccharides (G. O. Aspinall); Algal Polysaccharides (Elizabeth Percival); Bacterial and Fungal Polysaccharides (S. A. Barker and P. J. Somers); Mucopolysaccharides of Higher Animals (R. W. Jeanloz); Glycoproteins (R. Montgomery); Glycolipids (J. M. McKibbin); Analytical Methods for Carbohydrates (D. Aminoff, W. W. Binkley, R. Schaffer, and R. W. Mowry); and Rules of Carbohydrate Nomenclature, and List of Enzymes Acting on Carbohydrates (A. Herp, D. Horton, and W. Pigman).

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