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Book review

Plant α-1,4-Glucan Phosphorylase, by J. HOLLÓ, E. LÁSZLÓ, AND A. HOSCHKE. Akademiai Kiadó, Publishing House of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, 1971, 211 pp., $7.20.

In the reviewing of new books, it is exhilarating to find freshness and clarity coupled with a succinct up-to-date account of the subject. The present small book is an easy-to-read account of plant α-1,4-glucan phosphorylase. The book forms part of a series "Recent Developments in the Chemistry of Natural Carbon Compounds", edited by R. Bognár, V. Bruckner, and G. Szántay.

The authors are experienced in this area, and report here their work, along with the work of others. In addition to discussing plant α-1,4-glucan phosphorylases, the monograph presents important characteristics of animal phosphorylases. Occurrence of α-1,4-glucan phosphorylases is first discussed, followed by a careful evaluation of the methods for preparation. Then there are discussed, in sequence, the structure and properties of phosphorylases, their mechanism of action, and, finally, analytical procedures. The latter is good, but it is the only section not entirely necessary; its inclusion is simply an indication of the authors' interest in producing a complete monograph.

The printing is good, with but few typographical errors. The lack of punctuation in writing numbers causes a bit of initial concern to the reader, but the numbers are understandable. The reviewer recommends the book to students and research workers wishing a timely summary of the subject matter.

Lafayette, Indiana 47907 (U. S. A.) ROY L. WHISTLER