

*The Carbohydrates: Chemistry and Biochemistry*. Second Edition, Volume IIA\*, edited by WARD PIGMAN AND DEREK HORTON (Assistant Editor, ANTHONY HERP). Academic Press, New York and London, 1970, xviii + 470 pp. + Author and Subject Indexes, \$22.50 (£8.75).

This book constitutes the first part of Volume II of the second edition of "The Carbohydrates", the first edition of which was edited by Ward Pigman and published in 1957. Whereas the first edition consisted of 902 pages with 4,500 references, the second will be about 2,500 pages long (including the Indexes) with some 10,000 references. This expansion was made necessary by the growth of information in this field in the interim. As a further consequence of this growth, the historical approach has been eschewed in order to present, topic by topic, as much factual information as possible, but references to review articles are given for the benefit of those interested in the history of the subject.

Volume IIA contains nine chapters written by a total of sixteen authors (two residing in France, two in Japan, and the rest in the United States), each of whom is a recognized authority on the subject he discusses.

The Chapter numbers, titles, and authors are: 29, Nucleosides (C. A. Dekker and L. Goodman); 30, Oligosaccharides (J. H. Pazur); 31, Antibiotics containing Sugars (S. Hanessian and T. H. Haskell); 32, Complex Glycosides (J. E. Courtois and F. Percheron); 33, Glycoside Hydrolases and Glycosyl Transferases (K. Nisizawa and Y. Hashimoto); 34, Biosynthesis of Sugars and Polysaccharides (W. Z. Hassid); 35, Introduction to Polysaccharide Chemistry (I. Danishefsky, R. L. Whistler, and F. A. Bettelheim); 36, Cellulose, Lichenan, and Chitin (K. Ward, Jr., and P. A. Seib); and 37, Hemicelluloses (R. L. Whistler and E. L. Richards). To each Chapter is appended a list of references that key its contents to major papers in the original literature and that will therefore be invaluable to the specialist. The Volume concludes with a 40-page Author Index and a 12-page Subject Index (each for Vol. IIA only).

Because the book will be extremely useful to students as supplementary reading for courses involving carbohydrate chemistry and biochemistry, and yet most students will be unable to afford it, one or more copies should be purchased by every public library and University library. Similarly, it should be available as a reference book for all scientists who need an up-to-date account of the topics discussed. Certainly, a copy of the book should be in the personal library of every scientist engaged in teaching of, or research on, the chemistry or biochemistry of carbohydrates.

The authors and editors deserve praise for successful completion of a difficult task, and gratitude for making this information readily available.

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\*For a review of Vol. IIB, see *Carbohydr. Res.*, 17 (1971) 252.