

Book review

Advances in Carbohydrate Chemistry and Biochemistry: Volume 24, edited by MELVILLE L. WOLFROM, R. STUART TIPSON, AND DEREK HORTON Academic Press, New York and London, 1969, xi+452 pages+Author, Subject, and Cumulative Indexes, \$ 22.50.

Most research workers in the field of carbohydrates, be their primary interest in the chemistry or biochemistry of these substances, can usually find in each volume of *Advances* one or more chapters that impinge on their field of specialist interest. This volume, as with previous volumes, contains something for everybody. Indeed, but for the unfaltering, annual publication of this series, our professional lives would be considerably more arduous, and we owe a great debt to those who devote so much of their time to the writing of such authoritative and scholarly articles.

The volume commences with an obituary of Richard Kuhn by his former co-worker Hans H. Baer and constitutes a fascinating insight into the career of this Nobel laureate, the diversity of which is particularly humbling to today's more specialised brand of chemists, into which class the reviewer, unfortunately, must place himself.

Two wide-ranging and timely reviews are concluded in this volume as Parts II of "Mutarotation of Sugars in Solution" (H. S. Isbell and W. Pigman) and "Sulphonic Esters of Carbohydrates" (D. H. Ball and F. W. Parrish), and R. J. Ferrier has presented a further authoritative account of "Unsaturated Sugars" which, although not numbered as Part II, brings up-to-date his previous article of the same title; this was published only four years earlier in Volume 20—such has been the rate of progress in this expanding field.

Nitro sugars, which have become well established as versatile intermediates in studies of amino sugars and amino cyclitols, are reviewed in masterful fashion by H. H. Baer, who has surveyed the not inconsiderable progress made since the topic was first reviewed by Sowden in Volume 6.

For those whose interests lie with molecules of greater molecular weight and biological importance, the articles by D. A. Rees (Structure, Conformation, and Mechanism in the Formation of Polysaccharide Gels and Networks), J. Kiss (Glycosphingolipids), G. O. Aspinall (Gums and Mucilages), and E. H. F. McGale (Protein-Carbohydrate Compounds in Human Urine) constitute stimulating and informative reading.

It is reassuring to see that the high standards of scholarship, writing, and presentation, established in previous volumes of the Series, have been maintained throughout this volume, despite the untimely death of its co-editor, Professor M. L. Wolfrom. It rightly deserves a place, alongside the previous volumes, in the personal libraries of all who specialise in the study of the carbohydrates.

Queen Elizabeth College, London

ANTHONY C. RICHARDSON