Glycoproteins and Glycolipids in Disease Processes: ACS Symposium Series, No. 80, edited by EARL F. WALBORG, JR., American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., 1978, xv + 480 pages, $33.50.

This volume is the permanent record of an ACS symposium which took place in Anaheim, California, on March 14–15, 1978. The book is dedicated to the late Professor W. Ward Pigman, who (together with Dr. Earl F. Walborg, Jr.) was co-organizer of the symposium. Dr. Pigman was among the pioneers of the fields of complex carbohydrates (glycolipids, glycoproteins, and glycosaminoglycans) that, as is evidenced by this symposium, are now in full bloom.

Although numerous books on glycoproteins and glycolipids, with or without special reference to disease processes, are currently available, this volume is indubitably one of the most outstanding with respect to the scope of coverage and the choice of topics. The book is organized into five sections (24 chapters): (1) Structure and metabolism of glycoproteins and glycolipids; (2) Genetic disorders of complex carbohydrate metabolism; (3) Infectious and degenerative diseases; (4) Secreted glycoproteins and cell-surface antigens of cancer cells; and (5) Alterations of membrane-associated glycolipids and glycoproteins during malignant transformations.

In discussing the complex carbohydrates encountered in various diseases, the normal complex carbohydrates must first be described, and then used as a basis of comparison. Therefore, almost all of the articles contain some description of the normal forms of the complex carbohydrates under consideration. The first section, which specifically deals with fundamental, structural and biosynthetic aspects of glycolipids and glycoproteins, is very well presented and quite up to date; this section, alone, provides an excellent reason for obtaining this book. Also valuable are the short, prefatory articles provided by the chairman of each section; each of these articles reviews the development of the research areas treated in the section, and places the individual articles in proper perspective.

The contributed articles are generally of very high quality, both from the standpoint of content and of format of presentation. Illustrations and reference documentation are also excellent. Relatively few typographical or other errors could be found. It is natural that, in such diverse areas related to the complex carbohydrates, each of the topics covered has attained a different level of development and sophistication. Nevertheless, it is quite apparent that this is the area where daily expansion of frontiers can be seen, and this book should be a useful tool for every "frontiersman" of the glycolipids and glycoproteins.

The speed with which this book was published is admirable. The price (considerably higher than that of earlier volumes of the ACS Symposium Series) is, however, regrettable. Nevertheless, considering the wealth of information contained in this volume, the price should not be allowed to constitute a retardant to acquisition by serious students of the complex carbohydrates. It can only be wished that the discount

price (available for a short period) could have been extended indefinitely to graduate students.

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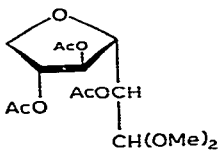
Corrigenda

Carbohydr. Res., 62 (1978) 368–372:
page 370: the structural formula of compound **2** should read



Carbohydr. Res., 65 (1978) 314–319:
page 316, last line, and page 317, first line: the chemical shifts for the acetyl methyl signals should read as follows: 1.73, 1.72, 1.69, and 1.67 (3-proton singlets, 4 OAc).

Carbohydr. Res., 69 (1979) 47–54:
page 47, *et seq.*: the less-stable 4,6-*O*-benzylidene derivative **5** obtained from methyl 2,3-di-*O*-methyl-α-D-glucopyranoside was inadvertently assigned the *R* configuration at the acetal-carbon atom in this paper. This isomer, which has the phenyl group axially disposed, should be assigned the *S* configuration, while the more-stable isomer **1** should be assigned the *R* configuration.