

## Book review

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*Industrial Polysaccharides: Genetic Engineering, Structure/Property Relations and Applications*, edited by MANSSUR YALPANI, Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam, or P.O. Box 1663, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 in North America, 1987, xix + 408 pages, \$131.75, Dfl. 270.00.

This book is a collection of papers presented in a symposium on applications and modifications of industrial polysaccharides sponsored by the Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry of the American Chemical Society in April 1987. It consists of 34 chapters grouped in five sections: genetic engineering and enzymatic modifications (10), chemical modifications (6), structure–property relations (6), characterization (5), and novel applications (6). Industrial polysaccharides are defined broadly to include both high-volume commodity products and low-volume specialty products such as those of interest to the biomedical industry. The volume contains information on both current and potential commercial products. With regard to current industrial polysaccharides, various chapters describe new modifications, insights into structure–property relations, and potentials for modification using the newly available techniques of biotechnology. It is not a reiteration of properties and applications available in other works, but rather a status report of some of the new developments in the field and a glimpse at some of what might be expected as future developments in the applications of polysaccharides. Contributors to this diverse survey are leaders in the field, especially in the application of basic science to the understanding and development of industrial polysaccharides. As with all volumes of this type, there is some variation in quality of the chapters, but they are generally of high caliber. The book is well indexed, something now always found in a symposium volume. It would be a good addition to the personal libraries of all wishing to keep abreast of recent developments and trends in industrial polysaccharides.

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