

*The Biological Chemistry of Iron*. Editors H.B. Dunford, D. Dolphin, K.N. Raymond and L. Sieker. NATO Advanced Study Institutes Series, Reidel, The Netherlands, 1982, pp. 517, Dfl. 145.00.

This is also a multi-author, manuscript photo-offset, volume based on a NATO study institute and provides an excellent over-view of the title area.

In contrast to the mixed-valence monograph reviewed here, this volume contains a large number (31) of relatively short chapters. A general introduction is provided by separate contributions by Allen Hill, Ralph Wilkins and Chris Reed, each bringing their own special flavour to the subject.

A section on iron metabolism contains contributions by Crichton (storage), Aisen (transferrins), Raymond and Tufano, and also Winkelmann (siderophores), and Byers and co-workers (rat heart cells).

Properties of the cytochromes are discussed by Xavier and co-workers (NMR), and hemerythrins are considered by Wilkins and co-workers, and Siker and co-workers. There are five chapters dealing with iron-sulphur clusters with a further five dealing with heme model systems, and 10 with heme enzymes. These later sections range from magnetic properties (Scheidt), through the more theoretical aspects (Loew) to the rather descriptive aspects of the last group of chapters.

Though many of the individual chapters are short, this book is useful in presenting a modern and wide ranging view of the current state of our knowledge on this area. Some of the most important contributors in the field are represented and they bring their special expertise and viewpoints to this volume.

This text should be on the shelves of all bio-inorganic chemists and biologists with inorganic inclinations.

The Editor's Desk