

*Peptides 1974*

Edited by Y. Wolman

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This book provides a record of the meeting of European Peptide Chemists held at Kiryat Anavim, Israel from 28th April to 3rd May 1974. As such it is of particular value to interested workers who were unable to be present. Highly specialised Symposia of this type are valuable in that they provide a forum not only for the presentation of reviews and of work in progress but also for papers of a more controversial nature or those which may incorporate new concepts. The contribution by Dr I. Ugi on four-component condensations could be said to introduce a new concept as far as many peptide chemists are concerned. While many of us may have introduced steric ambiguity into reaction products inadvertently in our less enlightened days, there might be some reluctance to introduce such a possibility deliberately. However, Dr Ugi has rightly regarded stereoselectivity in this reaction as a fundamental question during his development of the method over the years. The technique, although formidable at first acquaintance, would seem to merit further examination in specific problems. Considering the Symposium proceedings overall, classical and non-classical methods of peptide synthesis together with a section on the perennial problem of the analytical control of peptide synthesis form the major portion of the book. A further large section is devoted to interactions with macromolecules. The application of photochemistry to the peptide field now merits a small section but this is a possible growth area and future meetings may require

to assign more time to this potentially useful but relatively unexploited aspect.

In addition to the presented papers the volume includes much if not all of the discussion and comment arising during the sessions. One of the important functions of these Symposia is the seeding of ideas between the participants. Some of this emerges as comment during the sessions but much arises afterwards, often catalysed by a congenial environment, and unfortunately never appears in print. These Symposia were the brain child of Professor Josef Rudinger who arranged the first in Prague in 1958. His untimely death in April 1975 robbed the peptide field of one of its most colourful characters. He contributed to these Symposia as a member of the programme committee, as a chairman, contributor, discussant, commentator and simultaneous translator between many languages. His vast knowledge enabled him to discuss any paper with authority, his comments both inside and outside the conference room were always relevant and frequently introduced a fresh approach to a problem. One of his final contributions was to assist towards the rapid appearance of this volume in print.

The book is well produced and is recommended to groups interested in the making and in the properties of peptides.

R. W