

reminded in this of the similar situation in respect to measurements of total blood cholesterol before the results of the Framingham study indicated the opposing contributions of HDL and of LDL + VLDL to this measurement. Thus while studies on the variation of HDL levels in various states are now trendy one wonders whether the effort might be better placed in trying to analyse the HDL population itself and to determine the relationships of the composite forms. It seems quite likely that when such information is available it may be necessary to repeat the studies currently being performed in the light of the more complete understanding of HDL itself. However for the non-specialist it is important that many of the contributions in this section are in the nature of reviews and do therefore provide an indication of the 'state of the art'.

In the second and third sections which are devoted, respectively, to consideration of hormone receptors and responsiveness and of pathways of metabolism the articles are generally more specific and therefore

of less interest to a general audience. However, there are exceptions, notably the articles by Michell on the relationship between hormone-stimulated phosphatidylinositol breakdown and calcium mobilisation, and by Mannaerts and Debeer on regulation of hepatic fatty acid oxidation and esterification.

My main reservation about this volume is however its parochial nature. It may be very useful to have a European workshop for discussion purposes but not at all such a good idea to publish the proceedings when the expertise available in this particular corner of the world is by no means representative of the overall picture. Given the current relative costs of transatlantic and inter-European air travel it does not even seem possible to justify the restriction on this basis, and one can only conclude that a rather arbitrary decision was taken. Potential purchasers should therefore realise that the published proceedings, while of some interest, do not in any sense provide an overall view of this important area.

M. C. Scrutton

Physiochemical Aspects of Protein Denaturation

by S. Lapange

Wiley-Interscience; New York, 1978

x + 331 pages. £19.50

The nature of protein conformational changes is epitomised by those extreme changes taking place during the process of protein denaturation, and the present book provides a broad and thoughtful coverage of the methodologies for studying these changes and the thermodynamic and kinetic parameters which describe them. Whilst this book is to be recommended to the senior undergraduate and postgraduate, the reviewer can not accept the publisher's claim that 'accounts of experimental methods are self-contained and no consultation of specialised monographs is required'. Notwithstanding, the author may justifiably be congratulated in presenting a critical, comprehensive and much-needed review of the present status of

the subject, covering the literature to early 1977.

In such a broad and dynamic subject as this, it is difficult to avoid stamping a text with a personal touch; that the author has succeeded to a large extent in avoiding this pitfall is an indication of the quality of the treatment, as is the very objective analysis of areas of current controversy.

At £19.50, the individual purchaser will be encouraged to obtain a copy only if the book is of direct relevance to his own work. However, every biochemical library worth the name should stock this volume as an important reference work.

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