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A review of "AFFINITY CHROMATOGRAPHY (A Practical Approach)

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BOOK REVIEW

AFFINITY CHROMATOGRAPHY
(A Practical Approach)

P.D.G. Dean, W.S. Johnson & F.A. Middle, Eds.

IRL Press, Ltd., Oxford; Washington, D.C., 1985;
Softbound, 215 pages, \$23.00

This exceedingly practical multi-authored manual comprises 8 chapters: 1. Matrix Preparations and Applications; 2. Activation Procedures; 3. Cross-Linking Agents for Coupling Matrices to Spacers; 4. Operational Methodologies; 5. Ligands for Immobilisation; 6. Quantitative Characterisation of Interactions by Affinity Chromatography; 7. Zonal Elution Quantitative Affinity Chromatography and Analysis of Molecular Interactions; and 8. Cell Separation by Affinity Chromatography Ligand Immobilisation to Solid Supports Through Cleavable Mercury-Sulphur Bonds. Some chapters have only a few authors, others are written by the Editors, with various sections written by others, much in the trend of C.A. Williams' and M.W. Chase's Methods in Immunology and Immunochemistry (Academic Press, New York, 1967-1977). Apart from the Editors, 25 other authors collaborated in this effort. Their list of names reads like a Who's Who in Affinity Chromatography. Much of the literature quoted hails from the seventies or before, but the bibliography does comprise a number of papers hailing from 1982/83, with a few rare items published in 1984. Although still useful, Lowe & Dean's list of eluants goes back to 1974, and some important new concepts in elution have emerged since. Nevertheless, this part is also full of precious technical hints, not the

least of which is a section on the influence of temperature on elution, indicating a number of cases where elution is favored by low temperatures. Chapter 5 contains, in addition to affinity ligands *sensu stricto*, useful sections on Applications of Immobilized Dyes, and on Hydrophobic Interaction Chromatography.

The book abounds with recipes, including all the necessary details and lists of Manufacturers, with the various matrices and ligands they currently provide.

For anyone starting to use, or wishing to expand the possibilities of, affinity chromatography in his or her lab, no other book is as useful as this one and in most cases no other book should be necessary if this one is available. I most highly recommend it.

Carel J. van Oss