

parent substance which guides the reader to the appropriate derivative study.

In part *b* three indices are presented – literature reference, compound name and a special name index for coordination and organometallic compounds. The latter provides a dual search facility based on the central atom or the ligand.

One of the key factors in the usefulness of these tables is the presence of structural formulae, which offsets the difficulties of chemical nomenclature. Another important aspect of the compilation is that the data on cell dimensions, solvent, *R* index can be of great value to someone who would like to re-examine an old determination with modern structure-solving techniques. Undoubtedly the price of the publication will restrict circulation to libraries but the editors must be congratulated on the quality of this important contribution to crystallographic data compendia.

DAVID G. WATSON

*University Chemical Laboratory
Lensfield Road
Cambridge CB2 1EW
England*

Flavins and flavoproteins. Proceedings of the Third International Symposium of Flavins and Flavoproteins. Edited by H. KAMIN. Pp. xvii+712. Baltimore: University Park Press and London: Butterworths, 1971, Price £12.60.

This book is the third in a series of symposia on flavins and flavoproteins held every three years (for previous volumes, *cf. Flavins and Flavoproteins*, edited by E. C. Slater, Amsterdam, Elsevier, 1965; and *Flavins and Flavoproteins*, edited by K. Yagi, University of Tokyo, 1968) and represents well the spectrum of scientific endeavour designed to elucidate the mechanisms of flavoprotein catalytic function. The book is not a general review of flavin and flavoprotein chemistry, but rather serves as a review of specialized areas of research in the study of flavin-containing systems of biological importance. The areas of scientific endeavour range from purely biochemical studies on flavoprotein purification methods

to physical organic studies on reactions of model flavin compounds. Each chapter generally contains a detailed list of pertinent references and a detailed record of the discussion and comments following each presentation. The reading of these comments, despite their occasional limited value, serves to illuminate points of controversy which would not be apparent otherwise to those uninitiated in the lore of flavinology.

The third symposium represents a departure from the previous two in that several chapters pertain to X-ray diffraction studies of flavin derivatives and flavoproteins. Kierkegaard and co-workers present a review of their results of X-ray diffraction studies of ten derivatives of isoalloxazine, the parent flavin compound. There is limited description of experimental details, but bond angles and bond lengths are well tabulated. Ludwig and co-workers present a preliminary crystallographic study of clostridial flavodoxin (which we learn in the book is an unacceptable name for the enzyme) consisting primarily of a comparative study of diffraction patterns of the crystalline enzyme in various oxidation states and heavy atom complexes. Determination of the structure of a hydrogen-bonded complex between riboflavin and 5'-bromo-5'-deoxyadenosine by Voet and Rich is of interest since it suggests a stereochemical model of the structure of flavin adenine dinucleotide, the prosthetic group of numerous flavoproteins which has thus far not been successfully crystallized. Aside from the use of X-ray powder diagrams to help determine the minimum molecular weight and quaternary structure of cytochrome *b*₂ (Labeyrie and co-workers), there are no other studies reported of direct relevance to X-ray crystallographers. A notable contribution, however, in another area of flavin chemistry for which detailed structural information is of importance is the review by Song of the excited state chemistry and physics of flavin molecules. This represents probably the most comprehensive discussion and theoretical treatment to date of this subject.

MARVIN W. MAKINEN

*Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics
South Parks Road
Oxford
England*