

Unfortunately, while this book is over 100 pages shorter than the two previous volumes of the series, it is more expensive; in view of the cost, it is unlikely that it will grace many private book collections, though it would make a worthy addition to any college or university library.

Chester Beatty Research Institute, London

P. THOMAS

Methods in Carbohydrate Chemistry, Volume VII, General Methods, Glycosaminoglycans, and Glycoproteins, edited by R. L. WHISTLER AND J. N. BEMILLER, Academic Press, New York and London, 1976, xxi + 293 pages, \$29.50, £16.25.

This volume, the seventh in the series, has been divided into four sections, comprising (a) General Methods, which deals largely with synthetic aspects of mono- and di-saccharide chemistry; (b) Oligo- and Poly-saccharides, which is concerned, in the main, with procedures for the isolation and analysis of glycosaminoglycans; (c) Glycoproteins, again dealing, in the main, with the isolation, analysis, and methods for the structural determination of these substances; and (d) a short section called "Selected Methods Found in Other Collections", which is a list of references to relevant articles found in other series.

As in the previous volumes of this series, the section on general methods is well written and should be a most valuable aid to the synthetic organic chemist. However, the section dealing with glycoproteins and, to a lesser extent, the section on oligo- and poly-saccharides are only superficially treated. How, for example, can justice be done to a section entitled "The enzymic structural analysis of glycoproteins" in only five pages of text, including the references? For that matter, how can a section entitled "The isolation of glycopeptides from cell membrane glycoproteins" be adequately treated in only four pages; it surely deserves more than that? Yet an article on the isolation and properties of Stem Bromelain commands ten pages. Some sections, of course, are adequately covered and serve as a good guide to the general principles involved in the study of complex carbohydrates. The articles on methods for the determination of protein-carbohydrate linkages, for example, are well done, as are the chapters on physical methods for the analysis of polysaccharides. Though it is not obvious why a photograph of what appears to be a fairly standard distillation set-up is included in the section on "Glycosaminoglycans from human tissue". The fourth section of the book deserves a special mention. This is a potentially very useful addition, as it cross-references relevant articles from five other "Methods Series", and could speed up literature searches considerably.

This volume will no doubt find itself on many library shelves, for it is a useful book and it is always desirable to have a complete set of a series. However, certain sections, particularly those concerned with glycoproteins, are disappointing.

Chester Beatty Research Institute, London

P. THOMAS