

Book Review

Methods of Enzymatic Analysis. Volume IV: Enzymes. 2: Esterases, Glycosidases, Lyases, Ligases. By Hans Ulrich Bergmeyer. Verlag Chemie, Weinheim; Deerfield Beach (Florida), Basel, 1983. xxiv + 426 pp. Subscription price: DM170.

Bergmeyer's *Methods of Enzymatic Analysis*, Volume IV, deals with the use and characteristics of the following classes of enzymes: esterases, glycosidases, lyases and ligases. As with other volumes in this series, the enzyme assays given are, on the whole, very sensible and easy to follow. There are, however, a number of small lapses from good biochemical practice. For example, in Chapter 1 it is recommended that lyophilised alcohol dehydrogenase should be dissolved in water; why not a buffer?

This book differs from earlier volumes in that it contains no review chapters. Thus it is very much a reference book. However, most chapters contain a concise clear introduction to each enzyme before details of the assay are given. This, I feel, will be useful to those possibly not in the mainstream of biochemistry. On the whole, the Editors are to be congratulated on their choice of enzymes whose assay is described. My main complaint about the layout of the book is the occasional practice of having several authors describe different assays for the same enzyme, e.g. α -amylase. Surely, it is not too much to expect one author to be familiar with more than one enzyme assay.

Bergmeyer's series of books on enzyme analysis is undoubtedly a definitive work and should find a place in the collections of most serious scientific institutions.

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