Glass Capillary Chromatography in Clinical Medicine and Pharmacology. Edited by Halvor Jaeger. Marcel Dekker Inc., New York, 1985, 656 pp. Price: US$119.50

This book is divided into two sections. Part I, entitled 'Clinical Medicine', includes a total of 16 chapters covering basic chromatographic theory as well as the analysis of a variety of components of biological systems by capillary gas chromatography. Chapters on the analysis of amino acids, monosaccharides, fatty acids, phospholipids after enzymic hydrolysis and bile acids are of particular interest to food scientists. Part II is entitled 'Pharmacology' and is less relevant to food analysis, although the chapter on nucleosides is interesting.

This book contains considerable information about the extraction of components from biological systems, as well as sample pretreatment and derivatisation processes and details of the analysis of complex mixtures by capillary gas chromatography.

The book appears to have been a long time in preparation with several recent references omitted and, indeed, in Chapter 14, a paper published in 1980 is included as an addendum after preparation of the manuscript. Inevitably in a multi-author book of this type, a number of errors have been included. The statement by Jennings in Chapter 3 that on-column injection requires wider bore (0·32 mm) columns is surprising since we have been using narrow bore (0·2 mm id) columns for several years.

However, despite these reservations the book is very valuable as a reference text for those involved in the analysis of biological samples by capillary gas chromatography. It is regrettable that the high price would appear to preclude many scientists purchasing a personal copy.

M. H. Gordon

Modern Chromatographic Analysis of the Vitamins (Chromatographic Science Series, Vol. 30). Edited by A. P. De Leenheer, W. E. Lambert and M. G. M. De Ruyter. Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York. 1985, 576 pp. Price: $85·00 (US and Canada) or $102·00 (other countries).

The press release for this publication states: 'This book fully examines vitamins and their analogs as well as the latest techniques for determining their matrices'. I am not sure whether the book does, in fact, achieve this or indeed what was meant by the statement. However, what this book