

summaries. Some are mini-reviews but are none the worse for that, two of personal interest being on cassava and on formaldehyde as a bacteriostat in the manufacture of some Italian cheeses, a dubious practice which the authors would like to see prohibited. In some countries it is.

The longer reviews include Walker's lucid examination of the toxicological aspects of food preservatives, especially sulphites, nitrates, nitrites and nitrosamines, a subject about which some of us have been uneasy for some time, Elias' reassuring appreciation of the wholesomeness of irradiated foods and Anderson's concise and authoritative treatment of exudates and other gums as forms of soluble dietary fibre, in the course of which he makes singularly apposite comments on regulatory matters. In a most interesting discussion of the safety aspects of genetically engineered food products, Vettorazzi likens these products to those of the manufacturing industry and isolates the major research challenge as the measurement of genetic stability, while Miller and Nicklin use their brief overview of the mechanisms of food intolerance to point the way to a more unified experimental approach which, if successful, will at length provide specific answers to specific questions about food additives.

Because this book covers a wide range of topics a different reviewer would select different examples for comment. One can only envy those who attended the symposium and heard the discussions which each paper must have initiated. For the rest of us this book is full of interest and stimulates much thought. It is a necessary addition to all libraries concerned with food science and technology, especially those in and serving the food industry, but many individuals also will want to have it on their shelves.

The book is carefully produced. Tables, figures, diagrams and formulae are all clear and easy to follow. Errors are minimal and the eleven-page index is adequate.

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Developments in Food Proteins. 6. Edited by B. J. F. Hudson. Elsevier Applied Science, London, 1988. x + 335 pp. ISBN 1-85166-199-9. £56.00.

These volumes are now well established texts serving universities, institutes and larger companies where active research into food proteins occurs. Each volume aims to review recent developments in seven to eight subjects, the chapters being written by eminent scientists from around the world. Volume 6 presents: Nutritional and Functional Properties of Egg Proteins; Poultry—The Versatile Food; Vegetable Protein Products from Seeds; The Seed Globulins; The Plastein Reaction and its Applications; Protein Analysis by Electrophoresis; Metal-Protein Interactions and Dietary Protein Requirements.

Each chapter is typically 30–40 pages long, commencing with a brief one-page summary. The number of references cited ranges from 14 to 170. Text and figures are well presented, and the index and contents pages sound. There is only one photograph (black and white); surprisingly the electrophoresis contribution has none.

Given the book's declared aims, I feel that a greater emphasis on recent developments and future prospects was needed. Sadly, as with previous volumes too many of the contributions are exhaustive, quasi-historic reviews. In the chapter on plastein reactions, for example, over 80% of the 107 references are pre-1980. The electrophoresis chapter devotes too much space to needless buffer recipes, and re-reviewing techniques commonplace since the mid-1970s. In contrast the section on vegetable protein products concentrates upon the considerable advancements made in this area during the 1980s (only six of the 50 references are pre-1980). Similarly the other chapter on seed proteins is a good compilation of the recent flood of sequence data for these proteins. I do feel, however, that these data could have been presented in a more digestible and economic form; 50 of the 60 pages are amino acid sequences.

In conclusion, I hope that the next volume fulfils more completely the claim made on this volume's back-cover, to present 'new information'.

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