

Finally there is a chapter on postmortem changes during the conversion of muscle to meat.

The book will be useful as a teaching text for meat science courses at advanced undergraduate and postgraduate levels and for those wishing for a review of the literature in key areas of muscle biology. Useful reference lists are given at the end of each chapter and the book is well illustrated.

J. D. Wood

Developments in Dairy Chemistry 4—Functional Milk Proteins. Edited by P. F. Fox. Elsevier Applied Science Publishers, London, 1989. ISBN 1-85166-368-1. x + 383 pp. Price: £55.00.

Volumes 1, 2 and 3 in this series dealt with milk proteins, lipids, lactose and minor constituents. While Vol. 1 was devoted to milk proteins with some chapters on functional aspects, it was considered that the increasing importance of protein based dairy products merited more in-depth coverage, which is the objective of Vol. 4.

The editor has, indeed, assembled contributions from some of the major names in the field of chemistry and functionality of proteins, such as De Wit, Kinsella and Morr, to produce an excellent volume. The first chapter, written by the editor, is an extremely comprehensive and compact review of the chemistry of the milk protein system. The manufacture, physical properties and uses of casein and whey protein products are reviewed separately over six chapters in a most comprehensive manner. A further chapter attempts to relate the functional properties of milk proteins to their structure, and the final chapter describes the potential for chemical and enzymatic modification of milk proteins.

All chapters are well referenced and contain a good balance of basic chemistry and physics with technological and practical aspects. An immense amount of information is presented in 383 pages and it is probably the only book dedicated to this subject. The book should be of great interest to students and teachers of food science and technology as well as personnel in the dairy and related food industries. My only complaint is the poor reproduction of the photographs.

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