

in sodium phenylmonosulfonate solution as a standard for protein staining and of a triglyceride mixture for lipoprotein staining are based on personal experience. An excellent discussion is devoted to a comparison of the proportions of blood proteins found by various methods and modifications. A frequently checked "own value" may be considered the most reliable reference standard for a given laboratory. The chapter on lipoproteins is not only twice as long as that in the first edition, but differs from it in the selection of valuable information it contains. The wide acceptance of paper electrophoresis for the study of serum proteins has established the merits of this method so firmly that more space is devoted to warnings against uncritical interpretation of electrophoretic data than to the enumeration of the advantages of the method. Experimental workers will appreciate the chapter devoted to animal serum proteins.

Misprints in authors' names do not occur very frequently. The subject and author indexes are satisfactory though far from complete. Both cover and typography are worth mentioning for their esthetic merits. The publisher and printer are to be congratulated for the short production time which has made it possible to account for all important papers up to 1958.

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*Quantitative Paper Chromatography of Steroids* (Memoirs of the Society for Endocrinology, No. 8), edited by D. ABELSON AND R. V. BROOKS, Cambridge University Press, London, 1960, 103 pages, price 30 s.

The 100 or so pages of this publication deal with the proceedings of a symposium on the quantitative paper chromatography of steroids held in July 1958. Although the reader may well wonder why it should have taken two whole years for this book to appear, it nevertheless constitutes an up-to-date contribution on the subject, for the simple reason that today the problems involved have still not been solved. The  $\pm 20\%$  degree of accuracy attained so far, on which even expensive equipment has failed to achieve any appreciable improvement, may be adequate for many biochemical purposes; moreover, where a high degree of specificity is required of a determination, the question of quantitative accuracy is generally of less importance. Considered in the absolute, however, a  $\pm 20\%$  margin of error is too high. Try as one may to solve this problem, the factor paper = cellulose invariably plays a decisive and often critical role—so much so that for certain purposes the watchword "back to the column!" (e.g. celite) would appear justified. The various papers read at the symposium, and the contributions to the discussions, not only shed light on numerous aspects of this question but also deal with complete "quantitative" methods. Readers who have to tackle such problems will derive a great deal from this compilation, containing as it does a wealth of interesting details and personal experiences. The index at the back of this compendium adds further to its usefulness.

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