

BOOK REVIEWS

Radioactive Isotopes in Biochemistry, by E. BRODA, Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1960, x + 376 pages, price £ 3.0.0.

The task of writing a textbook today on radioactive isotopes in biochemistry is certainly difficult. Isotopic techniques are now employed very frequently in all branches of biological chemistry, so much so that in this textbook the author mentions that 38 % of the papers published in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* during 1956 concerned investigations carried out using labelled compounds. On the other hand it must be mentioned that there are already many textbooks and monographs on this subject.

BRODA has brilliantly succeeded in producing a book that is not too long, and that does not contain useless repetitions.

The author aims at providing the reader with an introduction to the methods of biochemical research with labelled atoms, and giving him a guide from which he can learn the principles of the most suitable techniques for solving his particular problem. He has therefore avoided minute descriptions and details, limiting the field to a general survey of the different subjects. The result is a fine and well-planned treatise that goes from the fundamentals of radioactivity to radiochemistry and from radiobiology to the problems of measuring radioactive materials, and to the applications of radioactive isotopes to the study of the different aspects of intermediate metabolism.

A well-balanced survey of such a vast and complex field calls for great knowledge and a remarkable ability to summarize the most important facts, which the author certainly possesses.

m.q. (Rome)

J. Chromatog., 7 (1962) 432

Electrolytic Dissociation, by C. B. MONK, Academic Press, London and New York, 1961, 320 pages, price 60 s.

This book, the eighth volume of a series of monographs on physical chemistry, surveys the theoretical and experimental aspects of the study of ions in solution. More than half of the text deals with the incomplete dissociation of electrolytes with detailed discussions of the laboratory methods currently in use. Thus there is a short but adequate chapter on methods based on solubilities, freezing points, ion exchange resins and solvent extraction.

Since the basis of all inorganic chromatographic methods depends on the solution chemistry of the ions concerned, this book should be read with interest by all working in this field.

J. Chromatog., 7 (1962) 432