

Book Review

Characterisation of proteins, edited by F. Franks, Humana Press, Clifton, NJ, 1988, 576 pp., price US\$ 69.50, US\$ 79.50 (export), ISBN 0-89603-109-8.

Once my mother decided to try a new recipe for a cake from a cookbook. The recipe was fine but for the fact that in the publishing process one line got lost, *i.e.* the amount of flour that should go into it. The result was interesting but not the cake it was supposed to be ...

Now in this book there is a chapter on amino acids and small peptides. The chapter is fine only in the publishing process one reference got lost and thus from pages 269 to 283 all the information given as to the references is wrong:

Page 269, 2nd last line: Doury-Berthod *et al.* (49) ... but reference 49 is by Gil-Av *et al.*

Page 270, Figure 11 is supposed to be "from ref. 51"; I looked up this paper and it does not contain this figure.

Page 271, line 18: "in a paper by Hare and Gil-Av (51) ..." but reference 51 is by Nimura *et al.*

On page 272, Table I is supposed to contain data from reference 51; again this paper does not contain the data.

Page 273, "... in which Nimura *et al.* (52) demonstrate...", however reference 52 is by Armstrong and DeMond.

And so it goes on to the end.

If this had been published by the Academy of a comic opera country, I would not object but a book with a main author from Cambridge and a U.S.A publisher?

It is obvious that the editor did not read the chapter or does not know the subject sufficiently well to edit such a book. But then this should have been picked up by the staff of the publisher. After all if the publisher does not check the scientific integrity of a work, what does one need him for at all?

There are still other points of editorial neglect. There are journals such as *Hely. Chim. Acta* and *Anal. Biochem* in the reference list on pages 282 and 283.

On page 246 read "Cassidy" for "Cassidey" on line 17.

The publicity on the book states "Frank's original, highly practical approach to Characterisation of Proteins makes this volume an especially valuable handbook for everyone involved in protein studies". I may agree if this poorly edited version is withdrawn and replaced by a well-edited one.

By the way, the cake is what is called a "Bischofsbrot" in Vienna. We worked out how much flour it needs and are glad to supply the recipe on request.

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