

Book Review

Macromolecular sequencing and synthesis —selected methods and applications, edited by D. H. Schlesinger, Alan R. Liss, New York, 1988, 270 pp., ISBN 0-8451-4246-1.

The book contains 20 papers dealing with purification of peptides and proteins, structure determination of peptides and proteins, oligonucleotide sequencing, computer analysis of DNA and protein sequences, peptides synthesis, oligonucleotide synthesis and examples of combined methodologies.

Most papers are long but not reviews, rather papers dealing with specific topics. We first thought that the volume could be a birthday volume or similar (although there is no mention in the preface) but were informed by the author that "The chapters were contributed by established investigators whom I personally know and have the highest regard for their work in the DNA and protein field and who are internationally recognised as leaders in their particular discipline. These topics were not part of any single meeting and all topics covered have been or are in the process of being published in scientific journals. Finally, the origin of the volume was the outcome of discussions by myself and the Alan R. Liss Publishing Co."

Now this seems thus a highly unusual book. As most copies of an edition are bought by scientific libraries, why should they disburse money for material which they will or have received in the journals they subscribe to?

The book may find interest with research workers in the field as a form of collected reprints. It can not be recommended in any other context under the circumstances.