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A review of: “Enzyme mechanisms”

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BOOK REVIEW

Enzyme mechanisms. Edited by M. I. Page and A. Williams. The Royal Society of Chemistry, London. Universities Press 1987, clothbound, 550 pp., £95.00 (\$183.00). ISBN 085/86-947-5.

This volume is a collection of contributions by many leading authorities in the field of bioorganic reaction mechanisms. It updates the current state of activities up to 1984-85. A few references from 1985-86 are included. It comprises 26 chapters dealing with enzyme models and transition state affinity, several types of acyl group transfers, glycosyl group transfer, pyridoxal-, thiamine-, B₁₂-, folate-, and glutathione-dependent enzymes, isomerization mechanisms, imine group formation, fatty acid synthetase, and redox reactions with NADH and F1H₂ as cofactors. A discussion of e.g. cytochromes, metal clusters and quinone cofactors is lacking, which makes the book not entirely representative, unfortunately. The topics discussed give a good introduction to the field. The volume is recommended to research workers, and it can also serve as a modern treatise of enzyme mechanisms in a specialized advanced university course, but the price is a serious obstacle. After all, the mechanistic aspects of the chemistry of enzymes and enzyme catalyzed reactions have to be treated and understood in terms of ordinary physical organic chemistry. Regrettably, the volume also lacks a subject index!

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