

Schöniger flask method for organo-chlorine compounds). Further, the references are rather scant, especially from the viewpoint of an American chemist.

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The Biosynthesis of Macromolecules. By VERNON M. INGRAM, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. W. A. Benjamin, Inc., 1 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. 1965. xv + 223 pp. 14 × 22 cm. \$8.00; \$3.95, paperback.

I have read this interesting monograph on "The Biosynthesis of Macromolecules" and find it a valuable and rewarding survey of important modern aspects of the field of molecular biology. A book of this type is particularly useful for students interested in the area of biopolymer structure and function without being expert in the specific details of research problems.

It is particularly gratifying to be able to obtain well-presented information on such areas as DNA and RNA structure, and at

the same time have a description of the biological actions of these materials. I found that the discussion of the physical chemistry of DNA and RNA, although abbreviated and simplified, was lucid and well explained.

The chapter on protein synthesis and genetic control and primary protein structure contains a concise account of the most important recent experiments carried out. The presentation proceeds in a simple unencumbered fashion from the amino acid activation step of protein biosynthesis through the numerous stages before the finished protein appears.

Perhaps the least rewarding of the chapters is that of polysaccharides. I find that the presentations are much too abbreviated. The structural aspects of polysaccharides are too simplified, and the sections on the mechanism of formation barely touch the details of polysaccharide synthesis and breakdown.

This book is an important source material for seniors or first-year graduate students who want an over-all view of modern aspects of biopolymer research.

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