

Book Reviews

The Biochemical Aspects of Hormone Action. Edited by ALBERT B. EINSTEIN, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine and Preventive Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, and the Department of Medicine, Jewish Hospital of St. Louis. Little, Brown and Co., Boston, Mass. 1964. xiv + 240 pp. 15 × 21.5 cm. \$8.50.

This volume is the report of a conference held late in 1962 at the Jewish Hospital of St. Louis and published in 1964. The conference members included many leading workers in the field who presented important ideas on the mechanism of hormone action.

Drs. Howard Rasmussen and Hector De Luca present a particularly clear and thoughtful chapter for the emergence of the physiology of the parathyroid to the study of the action of this hormone at the biochemical level. Dr. Choh Hao Li's chapter on "Melanotropic and Lipolytic Activities of Synthetic Peptides" is well illustrated and clearly defines the fact that the smallest unit is a pentapeptide, His-Phe-Arg-Try-Gly. Proper modification of this peptide produces highly significant changes both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Dr. Alexander Leaf describes the important use of the relatively histologically simple tissue, the urinary bladder of the toad, *Bufo marinus*, for studies on the mechanism of action of vasopressin.

In a concise and precise manner, Drs. Henry Lardy and Alan B. Kent review and favor the idea that thyroid hormone action is probably importantly related to the induction or regulation of induction of various important enzymes.

Additional thoughtful and fine chapters include "Effects of Insulin on Transport in Heart Muscle" by Charles R. Park, Howard E. Morgan, Hideko Kaji, and Maureen Smith; "Molecular Phenomena Related to the Mechanism of Action of Vasopressin on Membrane Permeability" by Irving L. Schwartz, Howard Rasmussen, Julian Marc-Aurele, and David Christman; "The Formation of Adenosine 3',5'-Phosphate" by Earl W. Sutherland, Jr., and Peter Davoren; "Biochemical Approaches to the Mechanism of Action of Steroid Hormones" by Paul Talalay; "Regulation of Biological Function Mediated by Changes in Protein Structure" by Gordon M. Tomkins and K. Lemone Yielding; and "Concerning the Action of Hormones Upon the Cell As a Whole" by Oscar Hechter, Rolf Emberland, and Koji Yoshinaga.

This volume, although not bearing the imprint of the most recent information, is still a valuable source to consult for the development of the advanced ideas of mechanism of hormone action.

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BOOKS RECEIVED, April 1966

K. W. BAGNALL. "The Chemistry of Selenium, Tellurium and Polonium." American Elsevier Publishing Co., Inc., 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, N. Y. 1966. 200 pp. \$13.00.

RONALD BELCHER. "Submicro Methods of Organic Analysis." American Elsevier Publishing Co., Inc., 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, N. Y. 1966. 173 pp. \$10.00.

JACK G. CALVERT and JAMES N. PITTS, JR. "Photochemistry." John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York, N. Y. 1966. 899 pp. \$19.50.

R. COLTON. "The Chemistry of Rhenium and Technetium." Interscience Publishers, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York, N. Y. 1965. 185 pp. \$8.50.

DAVID M. HERCULES, Editor. "Fluorescence and Phosphorescence Analysis. Principles and Applications." Interscience Publishers, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York, N. Y. 1966. 258 pp. \$12.00.

ROBERT KALVODA. "Techniques of Oscillographic Polarography." 2nd Edition, Completely Revised and Enlarged. American Elsevier Publishing Co., Inc., 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, N. Y. 1965. 214 pp. \$12.50.

G. MAVEL. "Théories Moléculaires de la Résonance Magnétique Nucléaire. Applications à la Chimie Structurale." Dunod, Editeur, 92, rue Bonaparte, Paris, France. 1966. 325 pp. 79 F.

GEORGE H. MORRISON, Editor. "Trace Analysis. Physical Methods." Interscience Publishers, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York, N. Y. 1965. 582 pp. \$16.00.

R. D. PEACOCK. "The Chemistry of Technetium and Rhenium." American Elsevier Publishing Co., Inc., 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, N. Y. 1966. 137 pp. \$10.00.

OKTAY SINANOĞLU, Editor. "Modern Quantum Chemistry. Istanbul Lectures." Part I. "Orbitals." Academic Press Inc., 111 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. 1965. 242 pp. \$10.00.

OKTAY SINANOĞLU, Editor. "Modern Quantum Chemistry. Istanbul Lectures." Part II. "Interactions." Academic Press Inc., 111 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. 1965. 311 pp. \$12.00.

WESLEY WM. WENDLANDT and HARRY G. HECHT. "Reflectance Spectroscopy." Interscience Publishers, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York, N. Y. 1966. 298 pp. \$12.00.