Publications

Book Reviews

Dietary Fats and Health, edited by E. G. Perkins and W. J. Visek (American Oil Chemists' Society, 508 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820, 1983, 978 pp., \$49 AOCS members, \$69 nonmembers).

This monograph consists of 60 papers presented at a conference of the same name held in Chicago Dec. 6-11, 1981. Both review papers and original papers are included. The book has been edited under international authorship, and most eminent specialists in the field of dietary fats participated in preparation of the manuscript, presenting not only the state of knowledge but also, perhaps even more important, their personal opinions on the topics and critical evaluations of experimental data.

The book has been written mainly for nutritionists, physiologists and biochemists who have some previous experience with the particular topic, consequently oil chemists and biochemists with only general background may find it difficult to understand some contributed papers.

The publication has a unique character: it is neither a textbook nor a complete monograph covering the whole field. The aim has been to give in-depth information of the most interesting and best researched topics on the role of lipids in the diet and their effect on health, and also to give basic information on related fields of lipid science. Therefore, the first part (12 chapters, covering more than 200 pages) consists of a very good review on sources, chemistry,

technology and analysis of fats and other lipids, presented in a form easily understood by nonchemists. The second part (48 chapters) deals with several important areas of nutrition science, particularly the metabolism of isomeric fatty acids found in hydrogenated oils, liposoluble vitamins, lipids in prenatal development and lipids in aging. Most attention has been paid to relations between dietary lipids and atherosclerosis (nearly 300 pages with 600 references) and between dietary lipids and cancer (more than 200 pages with over 800 references). The above selected topics are treated from different aspects and controversial topics are not avoided, which is one of the strengths of the monograph.

Meanwhile, various other important topics have been treated in much less detail, probably because they have been covered elsewhere in more detail. Relatively little is reported on the effect of dietary lipids on the synthesis of prostaglandins and related substances, and on the relation between fat intake and obesity. Problems of interest for developing countries, where the fat content in the diet is low, are perhaps inadequately covered. The rancidification of fats and oils and the effect of oxidation products on the nutrition value, although excellently written, have not received adequate attention.

The book presents an impressive amount of information. It includes ample literature citations (more than 2,500 references), and will surely be a very useful and important source of information for nutritionists, biologists, physiologists and physicians interested in lipids in human nutrition,

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Publications

especially if they are looking for up-to-date facts on lipid metabolism, atherosclerosis, cancer and other diseases common in industrialized societies. The strengths of the book are the views of most prominent scientists on the subjects, their critical review of the state of knowledge and the incentive and stimulation they provoke for further research on the subjects.

Jan Pokorný Department of Food Chemistry Prague Institute of Chemical Technology Prague, Czechoslovakia

New Publications

- Cleanliness and the Health Revolution, by Dr. V.W. Greene, The Soap and Detergent Association, 475 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016, 1984, 68 pp., paperback, no charge for single copies.
- Biology of Vitamin E, Ciba Foundation Symposia, Vol. 101, edited by R. Porter and J. Whelan, Ciba Pharmaceutical Co., PO Box 12832, Newark, NJ 07101, 1983, 260 pp., \$35. Order outside the U.S.A. and Canada from Pitman Publishing Ltd., 39 Parker St., London WC2B SPB, England.
- Liquid Chromatography in Environmental Analysis, edited by James F. Lawrence, The Humana Press Inc., Crescent Manor, PO Box 2148, Clifton, NJ 07015, 1984, 374 pp., \$55 U.S., \$65 elsewhere.
- Soymilk Industry & Market: Worldwide Country-by-Country Analysis, by William Shurtleff and Akiko Aoyagi, The Soyfoods Center, PO Box 234, Lafayette, CA 94549, 1984, 277 pp., spiral-bound, \$350 first copy, \$250 each additional copy.
- From Marcel Dekker Inc., 270 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016:
 - HPLC Analysis of Biological Compounds: A Laboratory Guide, Chromatographic Science Series, Vol. 26, by William S. Hancock and James T. Sparrow, 1984, 361 pp., \$39.75 U.S. and Canada, 20% higher elsewhere.
 - Advances in Chromatography, Vol. 23, edited by J. Calvin Giddings, Eli Grushka, Jack Cazes and Phyllis R. Brown, 1984, 272 pp., \$49.75 U.S. and Canada, 20% higher elsewhere.
 - Steric Exclusion Liquid Chromatography of Polymers, Chromatographic Science Series, Vol. 25, edited by Josef Janca, 1984, 329 pp., \$55 U.S. and Canada, 20% higher elsewhere.
- From McGraw Hill Cook Co., 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020:
 - Handbook of Engineering Economics: Guide for Engineers, Technicians, Scientists and Managers, by Max Kurtz, 1984, 1,120 pp., \$64.50.
 - Modern Cost Engineering: Methods & Data, Vol. II, Chemical Engineering, 1984, 304 pp., \$42.
- 1984 U.S. Industrial Outlook, Government Printing Office, 1984, 600 pp., \$14. Order from Dept. 36-EF, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402.