

BOOK REVIEWS

Photosynthesis Bibliography Vol. 1 Part 1 (1966/1970 References no. 1-5620/AAS-MYR); by Z. ŠESTÁK and J. ČATSKÝ (eds.), Dr. W. Junk N. V. Publishers, The Hague, 1974; viii + 304 pp., Dutch guilders 100.00.

This volume consists quite simply of a list of references (in full) arranged alphabetically according to authors' names and year of publication, on photosynthesis and related subjects published between 1966 and 1970. Part 2, publication of which is expected in the near future, finishes off the alphabet (references 5621-9087/NAA-ZWE) in a further 260 pp. Subsequent volumes, 2 (1971), 3 (1972), 4 (1973) and 5 (1974) are promised at regular intervals during the next 2 years. Thereafter it is intended to keep the series up to date by the issue of one volume *per annum*.

The bibliography includes papers in all fields of photosynthesis research such as ecology, physiology, biochemistry and biophysics. In addition the editors have included references to numerous related papers which they feel also contain information of interest. The true value of these volumes will depend on the quality and comprehensive nature, or otherwise, of the indexes. Unfortunately, the indexes to vol. 1 are contained in Part 2, which is not yet available. However, I can quote from the preface of Part 1: 'To maximize the value of the bibliography... each volume is provided with three indexes. The author index contains all names of authors and editors... The subject index covers only primary items chosen according to their interest... In the index of plant names, only important crop plants and selected plant types... are indexed. Cumulative indexes will accompany every fifth volume'.

The selection of material is truly comprehensive and there is little doubt that the present series will fill the gap left by the discontinuation of other photosynthetic bibliographies. The presentation is acceptable although some errors creep in; e.g. O. Holm-Hansen drops the Hansen in one reference and changes his initial to P. in another.

In general the editors are to be congratulated on

their efforts in initiating this series which will in time, I am sure, become a primary source for literature on photosynthesis for students and researchers alike. However, I fear that the price (even taking into account savings which may be made by placing a standing order) will result in many more copies being consulted in libraries than find their way into private collections.

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Arbeitsblätter für die Pharmazeutische Biologie (Pharmacognosie); by H. JORK and L. KRAUS. Deutscher Apotheker-Verlag, Stuttgart, 1974. Part 1, viii + 42 pp. (24 sheets). DM 29.50.

The first of the three parts of these laboratory-work sheets is a file containing 24 sheets. The whole work will contain about 70 sheets and ought to be useful in the modern education of pharmacutists and technical assistants in pharmacognosy. The file will cover all the DAB 7 (Deutsches Arzneibuch 7) and European Pharmacopoeia drugs. Each sheet contains a brief description of the drug, the parent plant and the family, then identity tests including macroscopic and microscopic characteristics, phytochemical reactions, TLC data, procedures for the preparation of reagents, quantitative determinations of the principal constituents, and information on physiological contaminants if any (falsification) as well as on biological activity. There are also included various questions and exercises. The text is well arranged and presents a comprehensive picture of the particular drugs in the form of a precise description and detailed procedures. In the opinion of the reviewer, the first part of these laboratory-work sheets is a success and without doubt, the remaining two parts when they appear will be equally valuable.

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