

BOOK NOTICES

Peroxidases 1970-1980: by T GASPAR, C PENEL, T THORPE and H GREPPIN University of Geneva, 1982 324 pp 45 Sw Fr (Orders may be sent to Professor H Greppin, 3, Place de l'Universite, CH-1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland, cost includes postage)

This handy monograph falls into two sections. The first 132 pages provide a critical up-to-date review of the biological and biochemical roles of peroxidases in higher plants. The second section lists nearly 1500 references alphabetically by author, to the recent literature on the subject, and concludes with author, plant species and subject indexes. This book can be warmly recommended to anyone working with peroxidases, it also constitutes a useful addition to the plant biochemistry literature.

Plants and the Daylight Spectrum: edited by H SMITH Academic Press, London, 1981 508 pp £22

There are 26 review papers in this volume, which is derived from the first International Symposium of the British Photobiology Society, held in January 1981 in Leicester. Although prepared by camera-ready copy, it is pleasingly produced and contains many figures and diagrams. The object of the meeting was to bring plant ecologists and physiologists together on a common ground and this appears to have been successfully accomplished. The main thrust of the symposium can be gauged from the following subheadings within the contents pages: remote sensing, light quality as an ecological factor in terrestrial and marine environments, physiological aspects of light and the perception of light quality. Although not appealing directly to the biochemical reader, this text is clearly a useful starting point to anyone wishing to know more about the dramatic effects differences in the natural illumination may have on plants.

Chemie der Pflanzenschutz und Schadlings-bekämpfungsmittel, Volume 8: edited by R WEGLER Springer, Berlin, 1982 455 pp DM 248

The subheading of this volume in this well-known series is Special Chemistry of Herbicides Applications and Mechanisms. It contains two short chapters in English on phenoxypipronic acid derivatives (by H J Nestler) and on wild oat herbicides (by E Haddock and R G Turner). The bulk of the book in German contains a comprehensive listing from the patent literature of new herbicides, which has been prepared by R Wegler and L Eue. Volume 8 thus has a more specialized audience appeal than many of the earlier volumes.

Life Sciences and Space Research XIX. edited by W R HOLMQUIST Volume 7, No 14 in Advances in Space Research, Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1981

This special edition contains papers presented at the twenty-third plenary meeting of COSPAR held in Budapest in June 1980, and covers an enormous range of different scientific subdisciplines. Plant scientists can read about the enzyme-mimicking properties of silicate and of the ability of micro-organisms to survive in space. They will also be interested to read that gravity is an obligatory factor in normal higher plant growth, that cultured carrot cells will continue to develop under space flight conditions, and that *Funaria hygrometrica* protonema cells differentiate and undergo photosynthesis during space flight. Other papers discuss the effects of weightlessness on rats and on humans and there is even an account of studies on Martian soil analogues.

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