

Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology: Carbohydrate-Protein Interaction: edited by A. E. CLARKE and I. A. WILSON, Springer, Berlin, 1988. 152 pp. £44.50.

This short and selective collection of reviews is on protein-carbohydrate interaction. The individual topics covered in this book have already been dealt with elsewhere in books and reviews, however, not necessarily in one single book. Thus, the special feature of this book is the compilation of related topics under one cover. This book will, therefore, be useful to have as a reference in libraries. Whether the individual scientist would buy it, will largely depend upon what other books and annual reviews he already has on his shelves.

There are five chapters in the book, the first being on the nature of complex carbohydrates of plants and animals (P. A. Gleeson). This gives a general description of the monosaccharides and the type of carbohydrate-protein linkages found in microbial, plant and animal proteoglycans and glycoproteins. The general structures of the carbohydrate parts of the complexes are given and their post-translational processing described. The second chapter is on carbohydrate-binding sites of plant lectins (G. N. Reeke Jnr. and J. W. Becker). In fact, most of the

details have already appeared in recent reviews and books and in more detail. The third chapter is on binding sites of monoclonal anti-carbohydrate antibodies (J. Thurin). This short chapter is unique and very useful indeed. It summarises data in tabular form from individual research papers and thus covers a wide literature. The author has put in much effort in compiling the information. The fourth chapter is on protein-oligosaccharide interactions with particular reference to lysozyme, phosphorylase and amylases (L. N. Johnson, J. Cheetham, P. J. McLaughlin, K. R. Acharya, D. Barford and C. D. Phillips). This is also an unique chapter dealing mainly with physical measurements and conformations. It presents the most detailed coverage of the topic and has been described extremely well. The final chapter is on arabinose-binding proteins (F. A. Quiocho). The shortness of this chapter is basically because of relative lack of information on this topic. However, the author has done his best in presenting the theme. On the whole, the book can be regarded as a useful addition to the existing literature.

*Department of Biochemistry,
Royal Holloway and Bedford
New College,
University of London*

PRAKASH M. DEY