

knowledge. The investigator may then refer, with greater benefit, to the more advanced compendia.

There is considerable variation between the standards of the different chapters, although this is probably unavoidable in a joint publication. Several of the contributions are rather loosely worded and the Reviewer regrets that the Editor did not wield his editorial pen with a little more severity.

The book is well produced, although rather expensive for its size. It contains, unfortunately, an excessive number of typographical errors, the majority of which should have been rectified at the proof-reading stage.

Despite these criticisms, this slim volume will be a most useful starting point for those interested in the applications of physical techniques to the chemistry of plant phenolics.

W. B. WHALLEY

Enzyme Chemistry of Phenolic Compounds: Edited by J. B. PRIDHAM. Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1963. 142 pp. 50s.

THIS book is a collection of the papers presented at a symposium meeting of the Plant Phenolics Group held in April 1962. The length of the papers is of the order of ten pages. Six papers deal with the nature, purification and occurrence of phenol oxidase in plants and micro-organisms (N. A. Burges; D. S. Bendall and R. P. F. Gregory; J. C. Boswell; J. Lavollay, G. Legrand, G. Lehongre and J. Neumann; E. Kuster) and two with the interaction of phenolic compounds with other plant enzyme systems (A. H. Williams; A. C. Hulme and J. D. Jones). Other aspects of the metabolism and enzymic reactions of phenolic compounds are covered in four papers (J. B. Jepson; J. B. Pridham; H. M. Hurst; B. R. Brown and S. M. Bocks) and finally the chemistry of tocopherols and the chemistry and biochemistry of ubi- and plasto-quinone are summarized in papers by J. Green and by F. W. Hemming and R. A. Morton respectively.

Although several of the papers are of a high standard, the book as a whole does not have the impact of the earlier symposium volumes of the Plant Phenolics Group. This is partly because in several of the papers too much emphasis is placed on a review of the literature and these, therefore, tend to duplicate material which has been published elsewhere. However, this fault emphasizes the fact that despite the large amount of published work we still have not defined the physiological role of phenolic compounds and phenol oxidases in plant metabolism.

The book would probably have been more attractive to potential purchasers if it had been published in a cheaper edition. Fifty shillings for 142 pages seems excessive.

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