Book Reviews

Kleinzeller, A.; Springer, G.F.; Wittmann, H.G. (eds.): Molecular Biology, Biochemistry and Biophysics. Chemical Recognition in Biology, Vol. 32. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer 1980. 430 pp., 210 figs., 39 tabs. Hard bound DM 98.–.

In July 1979 a symposium was held on chemical recognition in biology in Grignon (France). A selection of the lectures presented at this meeting were assembled in this book. The enclosed papers are not only a gathering of the results of the individual speakers own recent research but are more reflections on different topics. The material is arranged around the following main lines: A. recognition of ligands and enzyme catalysis; B. enzyme regulation with multifunctional protein kinase, muscle contraction, immunity and pathogenicity, the variety of functions of phosphate; C. nucleic acid – protein interactions: mutagenesis, including recognition of nucleic acids by peptides and proteins and DNA as a target for a protein antibiotic; D. protein biosynthesis with molecular mechanism, codon, anticodon, evolution of ribosomes; E. philosophical reflections.

The presented articles are written clearly, each with a comprehensive introduction to the subject and illustrated by many formulas, tables and figures. As a result this series of papers on specialized topics resulted in a book understandable to anyone with biological or biochemical background. Almost every article contains a list of references extending into 1980, thus the reader will be kept up-to-date.

The book ends with Novelli's recollections of Fritz Lipman during the early years of Coenzyme A research. Novelli illustrated how many scientists coorporated with the 'scientist's scientist' and how Lipman had to struggle before clearing the coenzyme A function. Lipman was awarded with the Nobel Prize in 1953 and celebrated his 80th anniversary in 1979.

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Robertson, A., F.R.S. (ed.): Selection Experiments in Laboratory and Domestic Animals. Proc. Symp. Harrogate (UK) 21st-22nd July 1979. Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux 1980. 245 pp., 43 figs., 75 tabs. Soft bound £9.50.

Publication of the Proceedings of the Symposium 'Selection Experiments in Laboratory and Domestic Animals' organized by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux will, undoubtedly, be welcomed because they reflect the trends in the development of a complex of genetic and selection studies of animals. The Proceedings present to the reader a great number of new investigations of both scientific and practical value. About 30 reports and abstracts covering a wide range of selection and genetic problems are included in this issue. These can be classified into three main sections. The first is concerned mostly with the theory and optimum design of selection experiments. The second deals with experiments, whether on laboratory or domestic animals, in which the main aim was to examine the validity of statistical prediction. The final section presents a discussion, mostly in physiological and biochemical terms, in which the direct and correlated responses to selection for the same or similar characters, such as growth or reproduction, in different species are compared. Unfortunately, third part of the reports is presented only in abstracts. This prevents understanding and reduces the value of the issue. Nevertheless, the high scientific level of many reports must be emphasized: it will, surely, draw the attention of specialists to the issue and will contribute to the progress of this actual and complicated field of research.

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