
Book Reviews

Rosen, O.M.; Krebs, E.G. (eds.): Protein Phosphorylation, Vol. 8 Book A, B. Cold Spring Harbor: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory 1981. 1421 pp. Hard bound US \$ 140.00.

Since the discovery 25 years ago of the regulation of glycogen phosphorylase activity by reversible protein phosphorylation, research on this type of regulatory mechanism has shown explosive growth. There is hardly any aspect of cellular function that has not been touched by the rapid growth in this field. About 30 enzymes have now been shown to be regulated by protein phosphorylation and many others will undoubtedly be added to the list in the near future. There is also evidence that reversible protein phosphorylation regulates many non-enzymic processes, including macromolecular interactions, especially within membranes. The reader who wishes to come to grips with the diversity of the subject and with the intricate details of the more intensively studied cases should find these two volumes of papers from the eighth Cold Spring Harbor Conference on Cell Proliferation an excellent starting point and rewarding reading in themselves.

Although only 6 out of the 105 papers deal with non-mammalian systems, the scope of the two volumes is quite broad. Book A is divided into 4 sections that deal with structural studies on cyclic AMP-dependent protein kinases, the general properties of kinases, the regulation of glycogen synthetase, and the regulation of lipid and carbohydrate metabolism. Book B consists of 6 sections, covering the mode of action of insulin and growth factor, contractile proteins, the regulation of protein synthesis, nuclear and cytoskeletal phosphorylation, viruses and cell transformation, and neural and membrane phosphorylation. Obviously some of these sections are broader than others and therefore more selectively treated. When several papers deal with the same subject (e.g. myosin light chain, HMG CoA reductase, regulation of protein synthesis), different authors prove to have considered different aspects, thereby avoiding repetition and adding breadth to the treatment.

Most of the papers include original results and a brief, easy-to-read methods sections. Some authors have also pro-

vided extended introductions that almost constitute mini reviews. The standard of production is just what one has come to expect from the CSH Laboratory, the half-tones are excellent and the index, although short, is quite useful.

So who would find these volumes of use? I can imagine that advanced undergraduates would find the papers easier to read than the usual specialist paper or long reviews. Doctoral students would find many useful technical tricks worth applying to their own systems. Teaching staff would have no difficulty basing a seminar series on the various sections. And those of us who are trying to purify a kinase or phosphatase, or identify a phosphorylated protein or find a physiological role for a new case of reversible phosphorylation would surely find considerable inspiration within these volumes.

J. Bennett, Coventry

Raethel, H.S.: Wildtauben. Haltung, Pflege und Zucht. Berlin: Ulmer 1980. 212 pp., 40 figs. Hard bound DM 38.-.

This beautifully illustrated book on wild pigeons is a successful attempt to combine history, husbandry and a survey of species of wild pigeons and doves held and bred in captivity.

An introductory chapter on the habits and life of wild pigeons in their natural habitat is followed by chapters with essential information on the management, feeding, breeding and disease of these valuable birds in captivity. The main part of this book, however, is a catalogue of nearly 200 species of wild pigeons and doves which have been or are still being bred in captivity by fanciers or zoological gardens. Each species is briefly described as to morphology, origin and husbandry requirements. Thirty-seven beautiful color plates make this book a valuable asset to any bird library and give the non-specialist an idea why others have become fanciers.

Although the book is written in German, each species is also named in English and French to facilitate cross reference and communication among interested fanciers.

H. Abplanalp, Davis