

Volume 239, number 2

FEBS LETTERS

November 1988

## *The Secretory and Endocytic Paths*

by A.M. Tartakoff

*John Wiley and Sons; Chichester, New York, 1987*

235 pages. £50.45

Tartakoff's book on the secretory and endocytic paths continues a series of monographs on major contemporary issues in cell biology. Previous volumes are on photosynthesis, cell and tissue regeneration, plant membranes, mammalian cell genetics and phospholipid bilayers.

The two main chapters of the book, on the secretory and the endocytic paths, have some resemblance to the historical development of the field starting with steady-state distributions of transported molecules to dynamic aspects of transport up to molecular mechanisms involved in the specificity of transport. Separate chapters deal with essential physical chemical principles underlying the structure and function of biological mem-

branes, and the perturbation of the secretory and endocytic paths by drugs, altered temperature, etc. The final chapter describes eukaryotic cellular mutants defective in secretory or endocytic transport.

In line with the general concept of this series, the author focusses on unifying principles rather than summarising diverse details. Much attention is given to experimental techniques. The very condensed and clear presentation will help anybody entering the field as well as established researchers wishing to refresh their knowledge in these two classical aspects of cell biology.

H. von Grafenstein

## *The Liver, Biology and Pathobiology (Second Edition)*

Edited by I.M. Arias, W.B. Jacoby, D. Schacter and D.A. Shafritz

*Raven Press; New York, 1987*

xxv + 1377 pages. \$244.00

This attractively presented book is the 'bible' of hepatology. A series of short chapters by experts in the relevant areas has been skilfully coordinated by the managing editors into a clear account of almost all aspects of liver anatomy, histology, physiology, biochemistry and pharmacology. Some overlap between chapters is unavoidable (e.g. in dealing with blood coagulation in one chapter and vitamin K in another, and in discussing hormonal regulation of liver function in several chapters) but it has been minimized and cross-referencing is good. Topics covered include the structure of parenchymal and non-parenchymal cells, the extracellular matrix, liver blood flow, biliary

secretion, liver biochemistry and its interaction with that of other organs, xenobiotic metabolism, metal metabolism and its disorders, lymphocytes, the nervous supply of the liver and the hepatotoxicity of a wide range of products, including ethanol. Each chapter is supplied with appropriate references, for which full titles are given.

Some minor criticisms include the fact that the contrast of several of the electron micrographs could have been better, there is very little on the problems of liver transplantation other than rejection (e.g. organ preservation), or on fulminant hepatic failure, and the process of lipid peroxidation is referred to in several chapters but not clear-