Membrane Biophysics III: Biological Transport

Progress in Clinical and Biological Research, vol. 258

Edited by M.A. Dinno and W.McD. Armstrong

A.L. Liss; New York, 1988

298 pages. $56.00

'Membrane Biophysics III: Biological transport' proudly proclaims that it will be a valuable source for researchers in the field. Unfortunately this flyleaf proclamation is not justified in the slightest. The flavour of this odd collation may be more accurately gleaned from the preface where we learn that the book is the proceedings of the 25th annual meeting of the Biological Transport Club at Lake Cumberland State Park. Lake Cumberland being a 'perfect setting for family recreation'. The contributors' institutions are also largely 2–3 h drive from Lake Cumberland.

The majority of chapters are concerned with epithelial ion transport using traditional methodology. Epithelia studied include gastric, small intestine, cornea, bladder, skin, kidney, placenta and lungs. There are also chapters on cultured cells, red cells and heart. The lack of a coherent theme is illustrated by the inclusion of chapters on prelytic actions of phlorizinyl 5′-bezylazide, adriamycin pharmacokinetics and nitroso-compound nephrotoxicity.

Researchers may find chapters of interest but it is difficult to imagine a single constituency whose interests would span more than 4 chapters. This book would not be a useful addition to a personal or institutional library.

N.L. Simmons

Yeast: A Practical Approach

Edited by I. Campbell and J.H. Duffus

IRL Press; Oxford, 1988

xvi + 289 pages. £27.00 ($54.00) hardback; £18.00 ($36.00) paperback

This book is a new addition to the very good *Practical Approach* series (edited by D. Rickwood and B.D. Hames). It is a collection of contributions by different authors who deal with the major areas of interest to those working with yeasts. A short first chapter covers the culture, storage and isolation of yeasts and includes a useful simplified yeast identification scheme. The second chapter deals extensively with cytological methods for light, fluorescence and electron microscopic techniques whilst chapter three covers the methodology for the establishment of synchronous yeast cultures. Yeast genetics is dealt with in the next two chapters with the first discussing 'classical' genetics and the second molecular genetics. It is refreshing to find that the classical approaches have not been forgotten in the euphoria of molecular genetics. The isolation of yeast chromatin for transcription studies and of mRNA for translation studies are covered in the next two chapters. The final three chapters discuss methods for studying the cell wall, mitochondria and membranes of yeasts. The appendices contain useful information on culture collections, transport of cultures and preparation of