

Peroxisomes and Glyoxysomes

Edited by R. Kindl and P.B. Lazarow

Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences Vol. 386, New York Academy of Sciences; New York, 1982
xii + 550 pages. \$102 (approx. £62)

Interest in peroxisomes and glyoxysomes has increased recently with the discovery that part of the metabolic pathway of β -oxidation of fatty acids in animal tissues is located in the former organelles. Other thriving research areas include the mechanism of organelle assembly, the effects of hypolipidaemic drugs on peroxisome proliferation and the peroxisomes of brown adipose tissue.

The current volume, one of the 'Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences' series is based upon the proceedings of a conference held in September 1981. It has thus appeared reasonably quickly. All aspects of peroxisome and glyoxysome metabolism are covered, and most authors took the trouble to place their work in context. An

especially useful feature of the book is the carefully edited discussions that follow each chapter; these often contain new and useful information as well as highlighting areas of disagreement.

I enjoyed this volume and would recommend it highly to anyone interested in the field. My two major points of criticism are the price, which seems excessive for a soft-bound volume, and the absence of a subject index. The book does have an index of contributors but a subject index, although harder work to compile, would have been far more useful.

B. Halliwell

Plant Virology *(Second Edition)*

by R.E.F. Matthews

Academic Press; New York, London, Toronto, Sydney, San Francisco, 1981
897 pages. £39.40. \$60.00

This book is by far the best textbook on plant virology available. The updated edition will be warmly welcomed by students and teachers in plants virology and also by those in the field of plant pathology, microbiology, general virology and biochemistry.

In this book all aspects ranging from symptoms, transmission and control of viruses to virus isolation, architecture and expression are covered on a level adequate for graduate students. The book is

written with notable lucidity, is well illustrated and has a good index. Due to the extensive bibliography (more than 2500 references, predominantly of recent papers) it will also serve as a useful reference book for research workers in the fields mentioned above. Important methods are briefly, but clearly outlined with their assets and limitations. Enough biological background is given, so that non-biologists can profit from this book without having to resort continuously to