This book is a fair reflection of the editors' efforts to bring together a wider variety of experts in affinity techniques. The success of this Göttingen conference was not only in its organization, but also in its value to speakers and audience alike in demonstrating the plethora of different ways in which biological interactions may be exploited. Applications of the latter go far beyond the now generally accepted technique of affinity chromatography. This book goes a long way to proving this point: thus the dissociation of chromatographic adsorption complexes using affinity elution applies to ion exchange, hydrophobic and affinity columns. A common misconception is to judge the mechanism of an affinity column by basing one's conclusions on desorption specificity data. Von der Haar's useful account of interfacial salting out of proteins includes a novel powerful modification, namely the use of ligand-induced solubility changes. This paper promises to alter our whole approach to ammonium sulphate fractionation of proteins and should be on the shelf of every protein chemist.

The desorption of affinity matrices has always posed problems, especially for immunoadsorbents. The review on electrophoretic desorption shows how this novel process can be applied to non-precipitating antibody systems. Some mechanistic proposals are made. The method promises to be a useful addition to the battery of desorption techniques available.

Haff reviews the uses of immobilised Cibacron blue and although this field has advanced very rapidly since the conference (see J. Chromatog. (1979) 165, 301), unpublished work was presented which adds to the value of this contribution. Lowe also included unpublished data in his account of mechanistic conclusions that can be drawn from studying the interactions of inosine dehydrogenase with immobilised nucleotides. Coggin's account of the chemistry of bisimido esters and their value in studying subunit interactions includes a section on peridate cleavable crosslinking agents. Rando's article on $k_{cat}$ inhibitors present a fascinating new horizon for enzymologists. These inhibitors (which are even more specific than transient state analogues) often require a little insight into an enzyme's mechanism before a satisfactory molecule can be designed.

The four articles on affinity labelling show how Ehrlich's original proposal of the magic bullet has developed. Affinity labelling is a highly sophisticated subject in its own right.

The final article is a general account of immunoassay and might seem out of place. In fact this author goes further than many in demonstrating the importance of exploiting biospecific interactions: clinical immunoassays are used by or on everyone.

There are at least seven books on the subject of affinity chromatography. This text has a breadth not covered by the others and is of value to protein chemists.

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