glucose-6-phosphatase or putative links between serotonin and the immune system. Both topics are covered and possible future directions discussed. Finally two chapters are devoted to an update on two regulatory enzymes from *Escherichia coli*, glutamine synthetase and glutamine-dependent carbamyl phosphate synthetase.

T.J. Mantle

Proteases of Retroviruses; Edited by V. Kostka; Walter de Gruyter; Berlin, 1989; xii + 206 pages; DM 198.00

This volume collects the texts of 18 lectures that were given at the special Colloquium on Retroviral Proteinases held during the 14th International Congress of Biochemistry in Prague in the summer of 1988.

With the benefit of hindsight some 16 months later, one can only marvel at the perspicacity of the colloquium organisers in having the foresight six of eight months earlier to conceive and plan an event that brought together essentially everyone who was known to be active in this rapidly developing subject area. The contents, the ideas, the predictions of the lectures that were received so enthusiastically at the time, somehow, sadly, seem a little jaded in print now, such is the pace of AIDS-related research. Nevertheless, this small volume collates the research that was current then, of the acknowledged leaders in the field and will be valuable as a source of information for some time to come. It will undoubtedly stand alongside earlier companion volumes, on the protein family to which the Retroviral Proteinases belong (i.e. Aspartic Proteinases), and on Cysteine Proteinases and Their Inhibitors.

John Kay

Handbook of Enzyme Inhibitors; by Helmward Zollner; VCH Verlagsgesellschaft; Weinheim, 1989; xi + 440 pages; DM 194.00/£65.00

This well-presented handbook attempts to tabulate the known inhibitors for about one thousand different enzymes. Two lists are provided: enzymes listed alphabetically with their respective inhibitors (K_i values and type of inhibition are given when available), and inhibitors listed alphabetically with the names of the enzymes that they affect. Literature references are provided.

I checked the first list by looking up five enzymes I am particularly interested in: superoxide dismutase (SOD), elastase, catalase, myeloperoxidase and cyclooxygenase. Information on SOD, catalase and cyclooxygenase was good, but the other two enzymes were not listed.

I then selected five inhibitors at random: aluminium, fluoride, eglin C, azide and dicoumarol. All except eglin C were listed, and again accurate information was presented.

Overall, I feel that this book should be useful: indeed, we have already used it several times in the laboratory. However, it is not comprehensive and may well become out-of-date quickly.

Barry Halliwell

Photosynthesis (Plant Biology, Vol. 8); Edited by W.R. Briggs; Alan R. Liss, New York, 1989; xxii + 524 pages; $98.00

This is a unique book since its thirty articles span a wider spectrum of subjects than any other book I know of which focuses on photosynthesis. On the one hand there are chapters on photophysical aspects of primary charge separation in reaction centers by Govindjee and Wasielewski and by Parson and, on the other, chapters on global photosynthesis and ecophysiology by Mooney and Field and by Bjorkman. Perhaps, however, this is to be expected for a proceeding of a symposium organized and held at the Carnegie Institution at Stanford. This laboratory has a long tradition of tackling research in photosynthesis using the interdisciplinary approach whereby basic molecular studies have been used to interpret observations made with whole plants, often under field conditions. It was Stacy French who first established photosynthesis as a major research area at Stanford and it was in honor of his 80th birthday that this symposium was held. With the belief that FEBS Letters is read by biochemists rather than by whole plant physiologists and ecologists, I should take this opportunity to inform you that it was Stacy who invented the French Press which is used so widely today by all types of cell molecular biologists.

Approximately 70% of the articles are concerned with the biochemistry and molecular biological facets of photosynthesis, and indeed, there are some excellent contributions. A theme which dominates in many of these articles is the control of various processes by light, whether it be thylakoid membrane organization and composition or gene expression. In one way or another, all aspects of electron transfer and carbon fixation are dealt with, although in many cases the contributions give recent experimental data rather than overviewing particular areas. The remaining 30% of the book falls broadly into physiology and ecology. In many ways these