

indication is given in the Foreword whether this represents Editorial belief that aging research conducted in the other continents differs qualitatively from the American variety.

Predictably in a book of this size and scope, a considerable array of material is presented and, as with the two earlier volumes in the series, specialists in biogerontological research will find it a useful source of information on advances in this rapidly growing field. With regard to theoretical aspects of aging, current major interest would appear to centre on a free radical/oxidative damage derivative of the earlier rate of living theory. The future prospect of genetic linkage analysis using DNA probes to investigate possible biomarkers of aging with, ultimately, identification of genes implicated in the aging process, is a theme in several contributions. Since genetic analysis is already pro-

ving invaluable in the investigation of age-related pathologies, for example, the autosomal dominant familial Alzheimer disease mapped to the proximal region of the long arm of chromosome 21, this approach could well prove to be the major area of advance in aging research during the next decade.

An additional strength of the book is that frequently overlooked basic aspects of research are also considered. Thus, to improve experimental design, and minimize often contradictory claims of age-related changes, the adoption of specific pathogen-free animals is advocated with experiments conducted throughout the life span rather than on a binary, young versus old basis. Altogether, this is a well-produced volume worthy of a place in the Life Sciences section of any library.

A.H. Bittles

Data for Biochemical Research (Third Edition)

by R.M.C. Dawson, D.C. Elliott, W.H. Elliott and K.M. Jones

Oxford University Press; Oxford, 1986

xii + 580 pages. £35.00

Experimental work in biochemistry and molecular biology often requires information concerning the physical and chemical properties of components of biological systems. This need is very adequately met by the third and greatly enlarged edition of a book which has found an important place in research laboratories as well as libraries.

There are 25 sections dealing with a wide variety of different compounds ranging from amino acids to vitamins. In addition, there is much useful in-

formation about biochemical reagents, procedures, methods such as gel electrophoresis, isotopes, the detection of substances on paper and thin-layer chromatograms, buffers, etc. In fact, when one considers the sheer volume of material in this book it becomes self-evident that it is one of the best buys and no biochemical laboratory can afford to be without it.

H.R.V. Arnstein

Data for biochemical research. RESTING POTENTIAL AND POTASSIUM LEVELS OF CELLS FROM ACTIVE AND INACTIVE SNAILS
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DAWSON, DAPHNE ELLIOTT, W. H. ELLIOTT and K. M. JONES. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1959. xii + 299 pp., 63s. Data for
Biochemical Research. THE Chapter headings are (I) Table of Biochemical Compounds (Amino acids, Peptides; Carboxylic
acids; Purines; Carbohydrates; Lipids; Steroids; Vitamins; Porphyrins; Chlorophylls; Carotenoids; Enzyme inhibitors; Metal
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