

BOOK REVIEWS

function of proteins involved in information transfer has been extensively reviewed: Kaziro *et al.* (Structure and function of signal transducing GTP binding proteins), Bourret... Simon (Signal transduction pathways involving protein phosphorylation in prokaryotes), Chinkers and Garbers (Signal transduction by guanylate cyclases), Lefkowitz (Model systems for the study of seven-transmembrane-segment receptors), all in *ARB*; Julius (Molecular biology of serotonin receptors) in *AR Biophys. Chem.*; Blumer and Thorner (Receptor G-protein signalling in yeast) in *AR Physiology*. The related area of transport systems has also received attention, with two reviews in *ARB*, one in *AR Biophys. Chem.*, and another in *AR Genetics*. Finally, the protein folding problem has been covered: Ellis and Van der Vies (Molecular chaperones), and Dill and Shortle (Denatured states in proteins), both in *ARB*; and Nilson

and Anderson (Proper and improper folding of proteins in the cellular environment) in *AR Microbiology*.

Most of these reviews are extensive and go into considerable depth, discussing the material being reviewed rather than listing an impressive bibliography. In many cases the two objectives could not be simultaneously satisfied, and the former objective won out. This is a marked improvement over reviews in the seventies, some of which were principally a compilation of papers published over the period of review.

Lefkowitz's review of seven-transmembrane-segment receptors is typical of the reviews in the volume. It correlates studies on rhodopsins, β_2 -adrenergic receptors and α -mating factors in yeast. Despite relatively little sequence similarity among these families of molecules, their three-dimensional structures are likely to be quite similar and their modes of action remarkably so. Had

this review appeared a couple of years later, it would probably include taste receptors, which have been recently cloned and shown to consist of seven transmembrane segments (Bill C. Hia and Filo Mena, *The Straits Times*, 18 March, 1992). The functional profile expected has been spelt out in some detail in the review and it will be interesting to see if the taste receptors also follow the general trend.

Unfortunately, the price of the series puts it out of the reach of most individual researchers in India, but they are invaluable additions to any library catering to biochemists/molecular biologists.

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MEETINGS/SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS

International Symposium on Pollination in Tropics

Place: Bangalore, India

Date: 8-13 August 1993

'Pollination biology' being the central theme, the symposium is planned to cover the following topics: Flower biology in relation to pollination; insect behaviour in relation to pollination; pollination by insects and other animals in natural communities; insect pollination in commercial production of seeds and fruits; pollination problems in tropical crops; conservation and management of pollinating insects; population dynamics of pollinators.

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Ninth International Congress of Cybernetics and Systems

Place: New Delhi, India

Date: 18-23 January 1993

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Institution of Chemists (India): Associateship Examination, 1993

Date: November 1993

Contact: Honorary Secretary,

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Edited and published by Prof. S. Ramaseshan, Current Science Association, Bangalore 560 080.
Typeset by Book Makers (I) Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore 560 009. Printed at Printek Printers, Bangalore 560 079.