owners?) the effects of feeding them to your *Hydra*. One cannot help but feel that it is as the 'Well I Never Book of Thiols' that this volume will find an affectionate corner on many bookshelves and it must surely be many years before it is surpassed.

D. C. WATTS

Biosynthesis (Volume 1)

(*Specialist Periodical Report of the Chemical Society*)

T. A. GEISSMAN (Senior Reporter)

Chemical Society, London, 1972, pp. 249, £6.50

The aim of the *Specialist Periodical Reports* is to provide research workers within a specific area with a comprehensive review of the literature normally covering the previous year or two years. *Biosynthesis* Volume 1 covers the literature published in 1970 and 1971 dealing with the biosynthesis of alkaloids, phenolic compounds, terpenoids, steroids and carotenoids.

The opening chapter concerns the methodology of biosynthetic studies and discusses the techniques available for establishing a biosynthetic pathway with an obvious heavy emphasis on the use of radioactive tracers. The advantages and problems of various tracer techniques are illustrated by numerous examples. A comprehensive list of references provides the intending investigator with a very wide range of examples of different techniques in different systems.

A short but exhaustive chapter deals with C_5–C_{20} terpenoid compounds. The advanced state of knowledge about triterpenoid, steroid and carotenoid biosyntheses is discussed in another chapter, which also lays well-deserved emphasis on the mechanism of individual steps in the biosyntheses. In particular the recent developments in both the synthesis of squalene from farnesyl pyrophosphate and the cyclization of squalene are treated in depth. Cornforth's stereospecifically labelled mevalonates continue to be extremely useful in solving stereochemical problems concerned with the formation of carotenoids.

The chapter on the biosynthesis of phenolic compounds is both comprehensive and absorbing. Not only does the author cover the fast range of phenolic compounds now discovered but he also deals in detail with studies of the individual enzymes of the flavone pathway. The biosynthesis of napthaquinones by four distinct pathways further highlights the biochemical diversity of organisms in their approach to biosynthesis and poses interesting evolutionary questions.

The *Report* finishes with a section covering recent developments in alkaloid biosynthesis. The author has summarized much of the new biosynthetic information in a table giving the percentage incorporation of various labelled intermediates into specific alkaloids by a variety of systems.

It is only on rare occasions that we have come across statements in the volume with which we do not entirely agree. The Editor and the contributors of this volume should be congratulated for setting a new standard of comprehensive coverage without sacrificing the readability of the text. This feature should make the volume attractive not only to the experts in the field but also to those who have a general interest in the development of bio-organic chemistry.

D. C. WILTON and M. AKHTAR

The Molecular Basis of Antibiotic Action

E. F. GALE, E. CUNDLIFFE, P. E. REYNOLDS, M. H. RICHMOND and M. J. WARING

John Wiley and Sons, Chichester, 1972, pp. 456, £8.00

The intense interest over the last 15 years or so in the biochemical activity of drugs that inhibit cell growth and division has generated an enormous scientific literature. There have been relatively few attempts, however, to gather together the more relevant studies

This volume covers the exciting advances made in the chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology of amino acid, peptide, and alkaloid biosynthesis. The 14 chapters in this volume briefly introduce classical approaches to deciphering biosynthetic pathways. These include feeding experiments where the producing organism is supplemented with isotopically labeled substrates to identify the building blocks and assembly mechanism possibilities. Volume 1. Noboru Motohashi, PhD (Editor) Meiji Pharmaceutical University, Kiyose-shi, Tokyo, Japan. Series: Food Science and Technology, Botanical Research and Practices BISAC: TEC012000.Â EDITORIAL Disability prevention: A focus on â€œfallsâ€ as a precipitating factor for eventual disability Sudip Bhattacharya and Amarjeet Singh. REVIEW RESEARCH Tobacco Biosynthesis is a particular form of Somatic Psychotherapy. Somatic psychotherapy works with the principle of,,mens sana in corpore sano" as developed by Pythagoras and Hippocrates. Somatic Psychology developed gradually based on principles established by Spinoza, Leibniz, Goethe and the early hypnotherapists who followed Mesmer.