

sesquiterpenoids, diterpenoids, sesterterpenoids, triterpenoids, carotenoids and polyterpenoids, and the biosynthesis of terpenoids and steroids. Areas covered are analytical procedures including new applications of physical methods to structure elucidation, the occurrence of these terpenoids in Nature and the discovery of new terpenoids, the chemistry of these terpenoids and their synthesis and biosynthesis.

The second part, which represents half of the book, is divided into two chapters dealing with steroids. One chapter is a survey of work on the physical and chemical properties and reactions of steroids, and the second describes the chemists' ingenious approaches to the synthesis of steroids.

It is pointless in this brief review to attempt to select any of the highlights of research in the field of terpenoids and steroids covered by this book. But it is quite certain that all the significant advances published in the year surveyed are recorded, and these are pointed out in apposite introductions to the two parts of the books.

ROBERT J. PRYCE

Biological Indicators of Environmental Quality: A Bibliography of Abstracts

W. A. THOMAS, G. GOLDSTEIN and W. H. WILCOX
Ann Arbor Science Publishers, Ann Arbor, 1973, pp. 254, £8.25

This book is a selection of 546 abstracts from the literature up to 1971 plus some entries from 1972. The authors of this compilation of abstracts are from The Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Environmental Indices Group and they have chosen the abstracts on the basis of their utility in environmental monitoring programmes. Each abstract was provided by the authors in the original publication, taken verbatim from a specified abstracting journal or prepared by one of the authors of this book.

The book's contents are arranged in five major sections according to the level of organization of the biological system considered in the abstract. Most of the first section is concerned with enzyme inhibition procedures in the determination of pesticide residues plus a few abstracts dealing with the effects of air pollutants and metal ions on plant and animal enzyme systems. The two following sections contain abstracts pertaining to the effects of pollutants on cell cultures, tissues and organs *in vivo* and *in vitro*. The fourth section of the book, abstracts 226–520, is by far the largest and is concerned with biological indicators at the level of the organism. The fifth section, dealing with communities, is concerned with various kinds of biological indices used in measurement of environmental quality.

In a preface to the book the authors make somewhat exaggerated claims of the value of biological indicators in monitoring pollution. In practice chemical and physical techniques are generally less expensive and more accurate for the measurement of concentrations of pollutants, although their biological significance can only be assessed by biological techniques.

N. O. CROSSLAND

Peptide Transport in Bacteria and Mammalian Gut (Ciba Foundation Symposium 1972)

Elsevier Excerpta Medica, North-Holland Associated Scientific Publishers, Amsterdam, 1972, pp. 161, Dfl. 20.00

This is an excellent account of an exchange of ideas between chemical microbiologists, gastroenterologists and others working in preclinical sciences.

Workers in microbiology and with mammalian intestine have shown that the trans-

