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broad, cultural framework, which is apparently an implicit referent for the authors, even though it is nowhere explicitly stated.

RAYMOND A. BAUER, Ensign, USNR
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Advances in carbohydrate chemistry. (Vol. I.) W. W. Pigman and M. L. Wolfrom (Ed.). New York: Academic Press, 1945. Pp. xii + 374. \$6.00.

This book is the first volume of a series, which is designed to present special topics in the chemistry of the carbohydrates as completely as the literature will permit at the time of the preparation of the manuscript. It is fortunate indeed that the word "recent" was not prefixed to this name, for such a prefix has no significance within a few weeks or months of the time the book appears on the market.

According to the Preface, "The increasing tempo of research and the consequent increased specialization of research workers make it desirable to provide frequent reviews of important developments in carbohydrate chemistry, not only for the carbohydrate chemist, but also for research workers in other fields and industrial chemists and teachers."

The current volume devotes 36 pages to the Fischer cyanohydrin synthesis and the configurations of higher-carbon sugars and alcohols (C. S. Hudson); 40 pages to the altrose group of substances (Nelson K. Richtmyer); 52 pages to carbohydrate orthoesters (Eugene Pacsu); 18 pages to thio- and seleno-sugars (Albert L. Raymond); 28 pages to the carbohydrate components of the cardiac glycosides (Robert C. Elderfield); 18 pages to metabolism of the sugar alcohols and their derivatives (C. Jelleff Carr and John C. Krantz, Jr.); 54 pages to the chemistry of the nucleic acids (R. Stuart Tipson); 32 pages to the fractionation of starch (Thomas John Schoch); 30 pages to the preparation and properties of starch esters (Roy L. Whistler); 36 pages to cellulose esters of organic acids (Charles R. Fordyce); and 30 pages to the Index.

The footnote bibliographies list 1,001 literature citations. The book is written well, edited well, and printed well. It is a must volume for any scientific library.

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