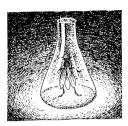
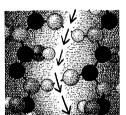




IT HAPPENED THIS MONTH...

a glance at yesterday in relation to today





IN JUNE-(1801)-a paper read before the Royal Society describes some experiments and observations on "spontaneous light". Herring, mackerel, and other objects "that abound with spontaneous light in the latent state" do not emit such light when deprived of life. Contrary to what other authors have alleged, oxygen does not render this light more vivid than it is in atmospheric air. Azotic gas, on the other hand, is favorable to spontaneous light and helps preserve its emission and brilliancy, while hydrogen, carbonic acid gas, and sulphurated hydrogen gas act to extinguish it.¹

More refined methods now permit us to make more reliable observations of bioluminescence. No longer is it necessary to depend on herring or mackerel. Schwarz BioResearch has recently made available a Firefly Kit for convenient classroom demonstration of bioluminescence and for ATP assay. The Schwarz Firefly Kit provides 500 mg. of dehydrated firefly tails, 250 mg. of crystalline disodium ATP, plus comprehensive instructions and background information.

IN JUNE-(1880)-R. H. Chittenden reviews recent work on the enzymatic breakdown of albumin. "... it is plain that by the first step in digestion the albumin molecule is resolved into its two parts [antialbumose and hemialbumose], the gastric juice then readily changing the hemialbumose into hemipeptone, while the anti-group appears less susceptible to the action of pepsin, only a small portion of this group being changed into antipeptone, while the larger part, under the influence of the dilute acid, appears to be converted into partially insoluble products; but on reaching the intestinal canal these insoluble bodies, under the influence of the alkaline solution of trypsin, pass readily into solution and are digested with formation of antipeptone, which is readily absorbed, while the hemipeptone is further changed into crystalline decomposition products."²

Today it is plain that many other proteolytic enzymes are involved in the digestion of albumin. Nevertheless, we still know almost nothing about the intermediate breakdown products. If you are studying the enzymic cleavage and synthesis of peptide bonds, you should have copies of two Schwarz catalogs: our regular catalog lists all the biologically important amino acids – plain and labeled with C^{14} , N^{15} , and S^{35} ; a special catalog describes a long line of carboxyamino acids, polyamino acids, polypeptides, and O^{18} – amino acid compounds produced by the Yeda Research and Development Company in Israel. Both catalogs are available upon request.



IN JUNE-(1949)—a group at Columbia publishes some new micromethods for the detection and determination of tissue hexoses. In 1946, Dische had described a new color reaction of hexoses with cysteine and other tissue constituents. Now, he and his associates have developed two modifications which promise to be of considerable value for the investigation of polysaccharides in animal tissues, body fluid, and bacteria and for measurement of blood galactose.³

If your micro, semi-micro, or macromethods involve either hexoses or sulfhydryls, you can probably obtain the compounds you need from Schwarz Bio-Research. We produce a large number of biologically important sugars, sugar phosphates and sulfhydryl compounds – plain or labeled with S^{35} or C^{14} .

1. Hulme, N.: A continuation of the experiments and observations on the light which is spontaneously emitted from various bodies; with some experiments and observations in solar light, when imbibed by Canton's Phosphorus. Phil. Tr. Roy. Soc. London 91:403 (June 18) 1801. 2. Chittenden, R. H.: Report on progress in physiological chemistry, Am. Chem. J. 2:204 (June) 1880. 3. Dische, Z.; Shettles, L. B.; and Osnos, M.: New specific color reactions of hexoses and spectrophotometric micromethods for their determination. Arch. Biochem. 22:169 (June) 1949.



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