

bility. The chapters on biopolymers in dilute solutions and electrical and magnetic field effects attempt to cover a profusion of techniques, at the expense of being perceptive.

The authors demonstrate their expertise in the chapters on conformation of polypeptides, fibrous proteins, and polysaccharides. These are excellent chapters updating earlier articles on the subject. The final two chapters, on nucleic acids and globular proteins, are uneven and do not match the other chapters. Their weakness is illustrated by an example given on p. 532 where a looped structure for single-stranded polyadenylic acid is discussed. This polymer has been demonstrated to be a single-stranded stacked helix. Transfer RNA is well presented. On the prediction of protein conformation the authors present a view that does not represent the lively controversy that exists in this field. Because Scheraga's early work on the prediction of conformation has been chosen as an example, a large part of the section is obsolete, this work having been superseded by more precise data—for example, it is now known that isoleucine is not a helix-former but a beta-former and that valine and threonine are not indifferent but are beta-formers. Thus the book ends on a dour note concerning predictions in this field.

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