combined attention of these specialists that will ultimately meet Prosser's challenge to understand the diversity of present-day organisms on the basis of their evolutionary past.

> THOMAS W. MOON Department of Biology, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario KIN 6N5, Canada

Cytochrome P-450

Cytochrome P-450. Structure, Mechanism, and Biochemistry. PAUL R. ORTIZ DE MONTELLANO, Ed. Plenum, New York, 1986. x, 556 pp., illus. \$69.50.

The last few years have seen an explosion of knowledge of cytochrome P-450 enzymes, such that need has developed for a comprehensive and contemporary treatise on these fascinating proteins. This volume fills the need superbly.

The initial chapter, by McMurry and Groves, provides a succinct but complete review of the chemistry and spectroscopy of the numerous synthetic models for P-450. Next Marnett, Weller, and Battista compare the peroxidase activity of hemeproteins and cytochrome P-450 and Miwa and Lu discuss the topology of the mammalian cytochrome P-450 active site. Then Peterson and Prough examine the electron transfer proteins that are physiological partners of cytochrome P-450, Ingelman-Sundberg describes the relations between these proteins and phospholipid membranes, and Black and Coon extensively compare the primary structures of the numerous P-450 isozymes.

Ortiz de Montellano gives a particularly cogent discussion of oxygen activation and transfer, which is the central function of cytochrome P-450, and joins with Reich to examine the inhibition of cytochrome P-450 enzymes, with special emphasis on the extraordinary mechanism-based inhibitors that Ortiz de Montellano's laboratory has developed. In the next three chapters supramolecular processes are discussed—the induction of hepatic P-450 isozymes by Eisen, regulation of synthesis and activity of P-450 enzymes in physiological pathways by Waterman, John, and Simpson, and P-450 enzymes in sterol biosynthesis and metabolism by Jefcoate.

The last two chapters emphasize the extensive physical studies that have been performed on bacterial P-450. Sligar and Murray give a scholarly account of the physics and chemistry of cytochrome P-450cam and other bacterial P-450 enzymes. Poulos then provides excellent stereoscopic graphics of the recently published crystal structure of P-450_{cam}, including a color plate of the full structure in front and side views. In addition, Poulos reconciles the observed structure with known spectroscopic and mechanistic information.

The emphasis of this book, reflecting the interests of the editor, is strongly, but not overwhelmingly, on the chemical and physical aspects of the oxygen activation process. Not the least of its many strengths is the recentness of the references, which include many from 1985 and even some from 1986. Full titles of all cited papers are included. There are also many useful direct comparisons of the P-450 enzymes to synthetic chemical models, peroxidases, and the bleomycins. Among material not available elsewhere are Poulos's structural illustrations, a very practical appendix by Waxman serving as an atlas of the confusing landscape of closely related mammalian P-450 isozymes, a useful compilation of the properties of 52 P-450 enzymes from 13 species by Black and Coon, and an expanded thermodynamic theory of redox and spin states by Sligar and Murray. Most topics are given well-balanced treatment, although several authors have followed the natural tendency to cite their own work heavily. One lack is an account of the elegant molecular biology that has been conducted on the gene structures of the mammalian P-450 isozyme families. Overall, though, this book is highly successful in its purpose, and I can heartily recommend it to students and experts alike.

> RONALD E. WHITE Department of Pharmacology, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT 06032

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