

## BUCHBESPRECHUNG

**Biologically Active Principles of Natural Products.**

Edited by W. Voelter and D. G. Daves.

Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, New York, 1984,  
318 pages, 52 figures, 30 tables, cloth.

ISBN 3-13-654801-9. Approx. \$ 26/DM 65.—.

This book on natural substances edited by W. Voelter and D. G. Daves is not merely an additional publication on biochemistry. It contains many facts that will be included as basic information in undergraduate and graduate textbooks in a few years and comprises reports on bioactivity and synthesis of a lot of different natural compounds. These include – among others – coenzymes, vitamins, hormones, neurotransmitters, and antibiotics. The greatest merit of the book is the fact that it includes chemistry and biochemistry, on one hand, and also medicine and therapy, on the other hand. Therefore, both the scientific researcher and the clinician will profit by reading the book.

The hitherto neglected therapeutic effect of coenzyme  $Q_{10}$  in cardiovascular disease is one of the most

promising projects in cardiology to work at. Four papers of the book deal with Co  $Q_{10}$ . Another main topic is the biology and medicine of peptide hormones. The organic chemist will find an interesting article dedicated to amino acid groups used for synthesis of these peptides. Some useful techniques for synthesis, purification and structural analysis are also dealt with in the book. The numerous references accompanying each paper enable a further study of the literature. The ample index deserves praise.

The selection of topics for an up-to-date publication that is intended to encompass all points of view within a field is not an easy task. The published articles represent a good choice of currently investigated compounds in a rapidly developing field of research and are a valuable contribution to it. Voelter's and Daves' book is, therefore, recommended to everyone interested in the subject.

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