

arbitrarily divided into sections depending on column and sample size: macro, micro and preparative. Each of these major chapters contains a wealth of detailed information that would allow the reader to carry out any chosen technique or separation. I only wish the authors had been a little more critical in comparing and discussing the large number of methods they have listed.

The chromatographic separation of the glycosylated haemoglobins is dealt with in a separate chapter and full details of most

published procedures have been provided. Once again the approach has been one of providing maximum information at the expense of critical evaluation.

Nevertheless this book should be useful in the laboratories of haematologists, biochemists and biologists and will save a considerable amount of time and effort searching the literature for a particular procedure.

S. G. WELCH

Thin Layer Chromatography: Quantitative Environmental and Clinical Applications

JOSEPH C. TOUCHSTONE and DEXTER ROGERS
(Editors)

John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, 1980, pp. 561, £21.50

The title of this book reveals the wide scope of its subject matter. The text is derived from expanded contributions to a symposium 'Clinical and Environmental Applications of Quantitative Thin Layer Chromatography', which was held in Philadelphia on January 15–17, 1979.

The 66 contributors are experts from distinguished commercial, scientific and medical establishments. Most are based in the U.S.A., except for two from Canada and two from Japan. They have been responsible for 35 chapters on their own specialist topics, which range from research to routine procedures. The first item is a useful Preface and Overview, full of sound advice to novices and experts alike, written by the editors, Joseph C. Touchstone of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, and Dexter Rogers, of Kontes, Vineland, New Jersey.

Attention is drawn particularly to the relatively neglected use of t.l.c. for quantification and direct assay *in situ* on the plate or rod. With new developments and microchip miniaturization of instrumentation, including computerized control of errors and data, the prices should fall to a level suitable for acquisition by many more laboratories. The clear presentation of the techniques in this publication should arouse enough interest to generate customers. Demand controls the market and supply. Those of us who would dearly love to avoid messy sample lift-off with its penalty of having to correct for heavy losses of precious tiny masses of metabolites must press for such advantages.

The early chapters are devoted to basic theory and scientific principles. Justus G. Kirchner's fine elegant little history of the origins of t.l.c. as an art, empirically based, developing into a controlled, mathematically exact science brings to mind his own invaluable contribution and the 1967 review text, which should be obligatory furniture for every laboratory using t.l.c. One day I hope Dr. Kirchner or his erudite colleagues may tackle the daunting task of bringing out another edition full of tables and techniques from the wealth of new research papers now available.

The topics covered include sorbents, sample preparation, application, derivatives, new instrumentation, quantitative densitometry, high-performance t.l.c. drug monitoring, micro-techniques, sample purification, and a host of analyses specialized for lipids, mycotoxins, nitrosamines, amniotic phospholipids, brain components, studies on leucocyte hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA reductase in rats, cholesterol (free and esterified), prostaglandin-type products, sebaceous-gland secretion, food and drug monitoring and finally flame-ionization detection of lipids in t.l.c. analysis and autoradiography t.l.c.

There is something for everyone to adapt to their needs in this book. I have no hesitation in recommending this publication as an addition to industrial, academic and non-academic library shelves. The print is clear, swiftly read and surprisingly free of print accidents. The production is well up to the high standard of Wiley-Interscience Publications.

CYNTHIA LYNE

Gene Amplification and Analysis (Volume I: Restriction Endonucleases)

J. G. CHIRIKJIAN

Elsevier/North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1981, pp. 246, \$46.25

This book contains 12 chapters by different authors, all well known in this field.

Chapter I (Blakesley) catalogues known enzymes from every conceivable viewpoint and should be useful. It is as up to date as is reasonable to expect from a book, but the annual charts in *Nucleic Acids Research* (or even from Blakesley's employer!) are more recent.

The next four chapters describe the Type I (Yuan) and Type II (Chirikjian) enzymes, followed by a very useful discussion on single-stranded cleavage (Wells) and on selective limitation of cleavage. The latter two deal with important topics which are not well represented in other reviews.

The next three chapters are dedicated to *EcoRI*, the cheapest of the restriction enzymes. There are plenty of data here (some of it unpublished) and much speculation which is stimulating for the enthusiast but perhaps too detailed for the general reader.

The last four chapters very briefly describe *BspI*, *PstI*, *HhaII* and *Pall*. I have been unable to discover what determined this particular choice out of the gross or so which could have been chosen.

I enjoyed this book but I am not sure I would recommend it for gene amplifiers or analysts; they would be better off with Vol. 65 or Vol. 68 of *Methods in Enzymology*.

ALAN D. B. MALCOLM

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