

Vodrážka, Z.: **Biochemie. [Biochemistry.]** Volume 1 and Volume 2. - Academia, Praha 1992. 315 pp. Price Kč 177.00 for the two volumes. [in Czech.]

So far, only two volumes of proposed three-part Czech biochemistry textbook were released. The first book with its 169 text pages, divided into three chapters is much more detailed than the second one (121 text pages). It describes composition and organisation of biological systems, biopolymers, and finally enzymes. The chapter on enzymes is written with special emphasis and represents almost one third of the whole first volume, consequently it is enough detailed in comparison with former two chapters. They are quite concise, dealing with so many important facts. The second book concerns living organism as a chemical engine. The most recent state of knowledge is mentioned only briefly (*e.g.* ribozymes, regulatory function of inositolphosphates). The importance of metabolic regulation is reduced, the regulation of glycolysis is omitted completely. All the text, rather brief, is directed to students of technological faculties, each chapter deals with the industrial consequences or applications. There are many figures, tables and schemes included within the books, which help to the easy understanding. Unfortunately, there are several mistakes and inaccuracies in them and in equations as well (*e.g.* page 35 and 58). Despite the promised third book on plant biochemistry, main differences in plant and animal metabolism are stressed along the text. The question rises on the necessity of a new expensive Czech biochemistry textbook.

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