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THE BIOTECHNOLOGY DIRECTORY

1989

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J. COOMBS & Y. R. ALSTON

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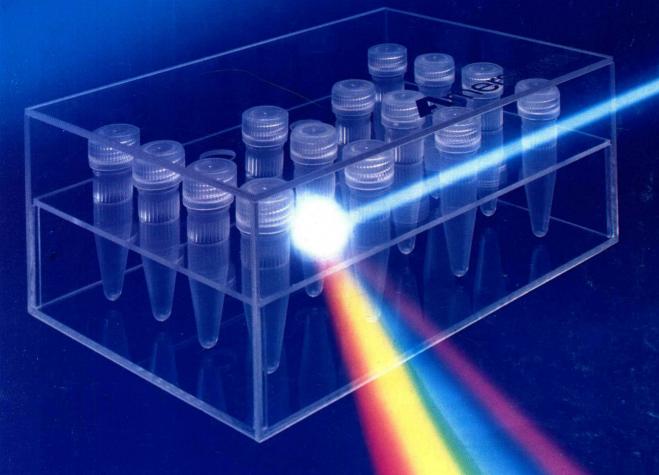
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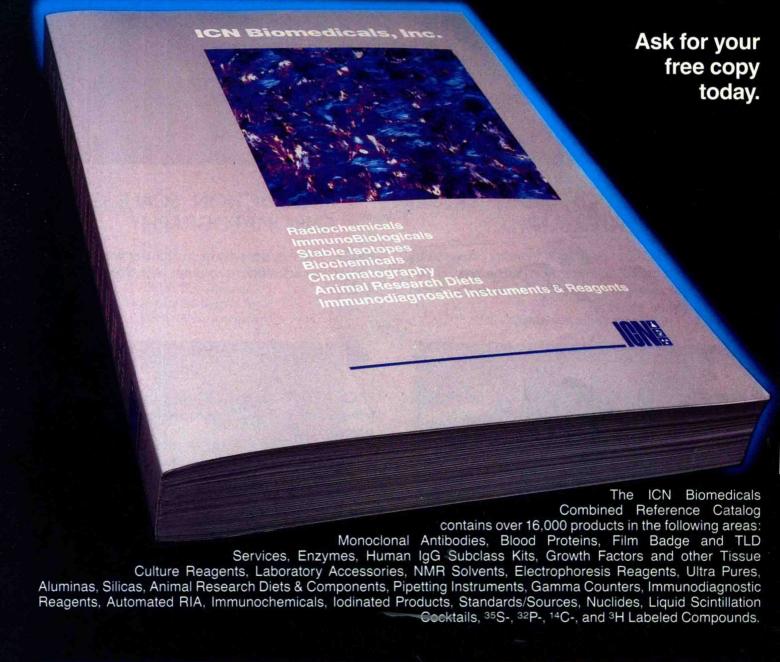
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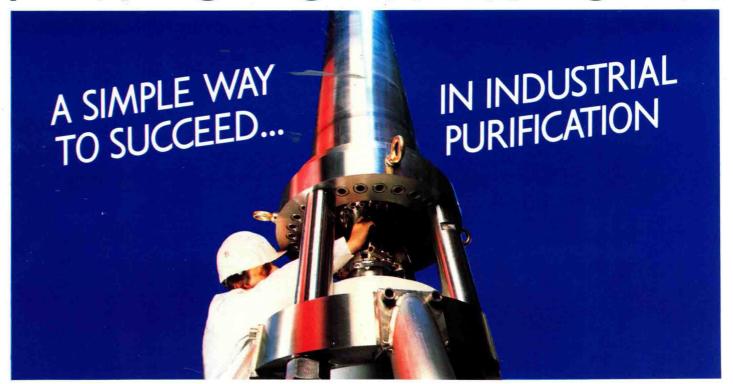
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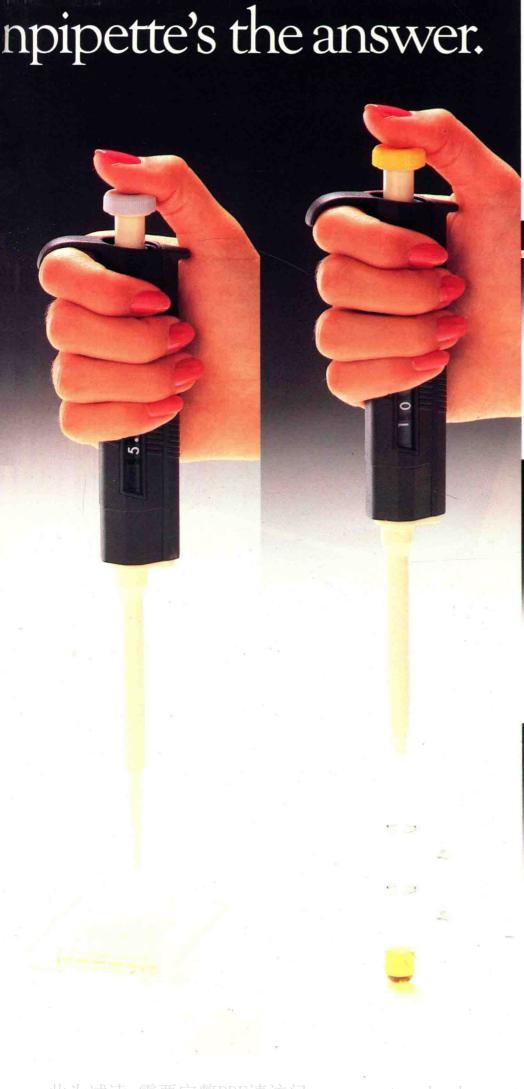
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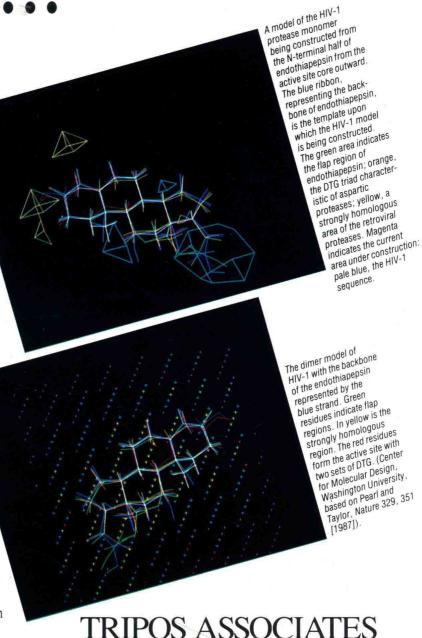
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Preface to the fifth edition

This fifth edition of the INTERNATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY DIRECTORY re-establishes it as an annual publication, reflecting the continuing need for regular updating of activities in an industry which continues to expand in scope and number of companies or institutions attracted to invest time, money and skills. The layout of the book remains unchanged. However, once again numerous additions and revisions have been made, including many implemented on the basis of suggestions or information supplied by our readers. Particular attention has again been paid to those areas (North America, Japan and the EC) where the biotechnology business is most active enabling over 1000 new entries to be made in part III. In addition, over 1000 further entries have been updated and some 200 companies deleted. Part I has also grown, reflecting the continued increase in new journals and other information sources related to biotechnology. A similar increase of around 20% is also incorporated into the product categories listed in the Buyers' Guide.

The increased amount of information available each year, reflecting this continued growth is daunting. In spite of extensive efforts to keep up to date the book does have deadlines to meet and changes that we are unaware of may occur during the editorial period. The sheer volume of material scanned means that the new volume must be started as soon as the previous year goes to press. This means it is even more important that our readers help to keep us informed of changes or additions. We continue to welcome all comments, which will be used in compilation of the sixth edition. We encourage you, therefore, to send us promotional literature for specific products or services as well as company or annual reports.

Once again the use of computerized data handling has been increased and the firmer editorial control maintained which we hope will be reflected in continued improvement in quality as well as quantity.

J Coombs and Y R Alston

September 1988

Introduction

This Directory covers biotechnology in western Europe, North America, Brazil, Australasia and Japan. It provides both an overview of the extent of the present interest in this subject and a catalogue whereby suppliers of materials and services as well as major research activities can be identified.

In compiling this information a rather broad view of those areas of science and technology which can be regarded as being part of what is now established as biotechnology has been taken. In spite of the fact that the concept of biotechnology has now been with us for a decade or so there is still no universal agreement as to what exactly is meant by the term and a number of different concepts have evolved as follows:

- (1) Biotechnology has been used as an alternative term for industrial microbiology. It has been taken to include those aspects of biology, chemistry and engineering which have to be combined in order to develop an industrial process aimed at conversion of suitable raw materials (generally of a biological origin) to a commercially viable end product where the catalyst consists of or is derived from living cells (microorganisms or cell cultures from higher organisms). In this case biotechnology covers reactor design, production of the biological catalysts, preparation of the feedstock and recovery of the desired product.
- (2) Biotechnology has been used in such a way as to become synonymous with novel techniques based on recombinant DNA (genetic engineering), the formation of hybridomas and generation of monoclonal antibodies, the molecular biology of protein synthesis, cell and tissue culture and the use of other in vitro techniques which permit manipulation of biological organisms in such a way that they may be induced to produce totally new products, or to produce known compounds but in much greater quantities than normal.
- (3) In a wider context biotechnology has been taken not only to include manufacturing processes, both traditional and new, but also to embrace aspects of animal and human health care, waste and pollution management, advanced plant breeding, enhanced oil recovery, mineral leaching, diagnostics and analytical equipment, biosensors, bioelectronics, biomass energy systems and so on.

In selecting entries for this *Directory* all three interpretations have been taken into account, including both the older established manufacturing processes based on fermentation to produce antibiotics, organic acids, bakers' yeast and alcoholic beverages and the new concepts such as biomass energy and genetic engineering.

The book is divided into three parts:

- I International Organizations and Information Services
- II Government Organizations, Associations and Societies
- III Companies, Research Institutes and University Departments

The third part is extended to include a detailed 'buyers' guide which lists many of the major products and/or areas of research covered by those concerns listed in Part III in addition to a series of indexes which i) lists the names of all the part III entries in alphabetical order, ii) lists all the product classifications in alphabetical order and iii) lists the major classifications under group headings such as agriculture, food and feed or waste treatment.

Part I International Organizations and Information Services

The potential of biotechnology is such that it will have dramatic effects in most areas of our lives within the next decade: it will influence changes in raw material use, as well as patterns of labour, health, energy, agriculture and food production. To realize this potential will require cooperation between nations with the international organizations playing an important role in such areas as the safety aspects of genetic engineering and establishment of uniform guidelines for release of manipulated organisms, patent protection, establishment of culture collections, seed banks and germplasm collections, regulation of food supplies, aspects of world and community health, and the promotion of information exchange and technology transfer as well as encouraging joint research projects. In many of these areas existing organizations have taken on the responsibility of dealing with specific problems or needs arising from biotechnology. In addition, more specialized bodies (such as the European Federation of Biotechnology) have been set up. Within the European Community biotechnology has been identified as one of the key areas for research within the 'Framework' programme which will encompass and extend the previous activities under FAST, the Concertation Unit for Biotechnology and the Bioengineering Programme of DG XII. The United Nations has supported the establishment of a significant number of microbial research centres (MIRCEN) around the world as well as the formation of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology with facilities in New Delhi (India) and Trieste (Italy).

The rate of growth of biotechnology is such that it is impossible to assimilate all information available from primary sources. This has led to a proliferation of abstracting services, on-line databases and newsletters. As with all areas of biotechnology some have already ceased publication. However, the continued existence of others indicates that, although relatively expensive, they meet the needs of those wishing for a rapid and concise overview of what is happening with an emphasis on commercial aspects.

These publications, with contents not subjected to any type of peer review, are in addition to the many new titles which have emerged from the publishers of established scientific journals. Some of these apparently new journals are in fact derived simply by changing the name of an existing series whereas others are completely new, reflecting the emphasis of research in a particular direction.

In this Directory both types of source material are listed. In general, the periodicals listed are those published in the English language or with English summaries and include both journals dedicated to biotechnology and those which contain some articles of relevance within the wider framework of biology, agriculture or medicine. The reason for this is that a number of the older, well-established publications attract the most important papers in a variety of fields, including biotechnology, whereas the proliferation of new journals has led to a deficiency in reports of high-quality original research. A further factor which is detracting from the biotechnology literature at present relates to the question of patents and prior disclosure. In the past the primary objective of much academic research has been publication in a reputable journal. In some areas this is no longer the case, and the first indication of an important breakthrough may now be found in snippets of sometimes unattributed information presented in the newsletters.

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