

determinations and the immense variety and complexity of the biological reaction environment. The editors, perhaps taking a longer view, must be assumed to think differently, else there would be little to connect the later chapters to the earlier, save the common dependence on databases for their raw material. However, even if the connecting threads are occasionally tenuous, these volumes are still of great value and deserving of a place in every crystallographer's library. The frankness with which the various contributors acknowledge the limitations of their approaches makes refreshing reading at a time when even a hint of such reservations could doom a grant proposal. It is clear that small-molecule crystallography has entered a quite new phase with the maturing of the Cambridge project, just as it is clear that most of the obstacles to the accumulation of structural data for biological macromolecules have been removed. These two fields, and their interactions, lie at the cutting edges of contemporary crystallography, and the editors and their collaborators have provided us with an excellent guide to them.

It may seem carping to end with a criticism, but it is directed rather at the publisher than at the editors and contributors. VCH Verlag is now one of the foremost publishers of books on crystallography. Other reviewers in this journal have suggested that it would be both helpful and appropriate to list the authors of individual chapters in the Table of Contents, rather than

only *in situ* after the actual chapter headings. I, too, believe this would be a useful change in policy.

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*Acta Cryst.* (1995). **B51**, 896

#### Books Received

*The following books have been received by the Editor. Brief and generally uncritical notices are given of works of marginal crystallographic interest; occasionally, a book of fundamental interest is included under this heading because of difficulty in finding a suitable reviewer without great delay.*

**DNA structure and recognition.** By S. NEIDLE. Pp. ix + 108. Oxford: IRL Press, 1994. Price £9.95. ISBN 0 19 963419. A review of this book, by Wolfram Saenger, has been published in the September 1995 issue of *Acta Crystallographica Section D*, page 858.