

INTRACELLULAR ENZYMES

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Intracellular enzymes by H. M. Vernon

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H. M. VERNON

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INTRACELLULAR ENZYMES

A COURSE OF LECTURES GIVEN IN THE
PHYSIOLOGICAL LABORATORY
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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P R E F A C E

THE subject of these lectures might at first sight be regarded as too small and unimportant to warrant their reproduction in book form, but I hope that such an opinion may be dispelled by a study of the lectures themselves. The progress of research renders it more and more evident that the cellular protoplasm of all living organisms is made up very largely of ferments or enzymes, and that many or most of its properties are dependent upon their activities. The literature dealing with these intracellular enzymes is scattered and somewhat fragmentary, and comparatively little of it has as yet found its way into text-books. This is partly because of its recent origin, for reference to the authorities cited at the foot of these pages will show that almost the whole of the research work described has been carried out during the course of the last decade. If such rapid rate of progress be continued in the future, the subject of intracellular enzymes bids fair to become, if it has not already become, one of the most important branches of biochemistry, for it alone seems to offer a clue to the solution of the most fundamental of all biological problems, the nature and constitution of protoplasm.

The matter in this book closely follows that of the spoken lectures, with some amplification of detail. I take this opportunity of thanking Dr A. D. Waller for his kindness in inviting me to give the course of lectures in the Physiological Laboratory of the University of London, for I should scarcely have had the energy to collect and publish the material without the stimulus of such an invitation. Also, I am indebted to Dr W. M. Bayliss for his kindness in looking through the MS., and offering valuable criticism.

H. M. V.

September 1908.

