
BOOK REVIEW

Biotechnology and Patent Protection—An International Review, (eds) F. K. Beier, R. S. Crespi and J. Straus, 1985, pp. 133, (Published by Oxford and IBH Publishing Co., 66, Janpath, New Delhi 110 001) Price: Rs. 133.

The book under review is a companion volume to "Biotechnology International Trends and Perspectives" by Alan T. Bull, Geoffrey Holt and Malcolm D. Lilly (September 1982). This is a useful edition particularly to Scientists engaged in inventive research in biotechnology, the patent office group and the user industries. Like its companion volume it has systematically examined the patent protection in biotechnology as it exists today and recommends certain changes to suit the expanding horizons of this interdisciplinary area.

The book consists of three parts. Part one deals with the influence of rapid scientific and technological changes as they affect patents and inventions in biotechnology. This is covered by Drs. F. K. Beier and J. Straus, who explain the objectives and basic principles of patent law and their application to biotechnological inventions, supported by relevant notes and references.

In part two, patent protection in biotechnology and general legal requirements are examined by

questionnaire method and the replies received are analyzed carefully. The question of patentability of micro organisms, legal protection for plants and higher organisms, requirements of deposition of micro organisms in recognized culture collections, infringement problems and the attitudes of the inventor, patent office and the user to the existing patent systems in several countries particularly the European economic community are discussed thoroughly. In the last chapter of this part the harmonization of patent laws is recommended.

The third part is a general summary of postulates, with specific recommendations. These are followed by useful annexures which include selected court cases, international inventions, list of experts and observers and comprehensive bibliography. The book is well written in an important field and will be useful to the inventor, the policy maker and the user industry. The book is informative and the price reasonable.

K. S. GOPALAKRISHNAN
Microbiology and Cell Biology Laboratory,
Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore 560 012.

ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOLAR ENERGY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The above Seminar will be held at the Department of Physics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur during May 29-31, 1987. Topics covered at the Seminar are: a) Rural energy resources and Biomass energy conversion; b) Solar thermal conversion for rural development; c) Energy saving devices and improved Chullas; d) Integrated rural energy system;

e) Photochemical conversion and storage system; and f) Solar cells and photovoltaic systems. A number of eminent and active scientists will present review papers on the above mentioned topics.

Further particulars may be had from: Dr S. H. Pawar, Convener and Secretary, National Seminar on SERD, Department of Physics, Shivaji University, Kolhapur 416 004.
