

## BOOKS in BRIEF

## An Introduction to Centrifugation

by **T. C. Ford** and **J. M. Graham**, *Bios Scientific Publishers*, 1991. £12.95/  
\$25.00 (x + 118 pages) ISBN  
1 872748 40 6

In most areas of biological and medical science – and indeed, in some areas of polymer science – the centrifuge is an essential laboratory tool with applications ranging from simple separations and purifications right through to the analysis of particle sizes and conformations.

Although there are several advanced texts focusing on specific areas of the subject, this book is the first short

introductory text of its type for many years. The first six chapters of the book cover the various types of centrifuge, rotors and separation/purification procedures available, with the emphasis on density gradient methods. The remaining four chapters cover specific applications from the purification and separation of cells/organelles right through to the separation and purification of systems of macromolecules, although after covering proteins and nucleic acids the authors seemed to have overlooked polysaccharides. There are also five very useful appendices covering specialized techniques, lists of manufacturers and types of equipment available, although at

least some mention of the rebirth of the analytical ultracentrifuge [Schachman, H. K. (1989) *Nature* 341, 259] would have been appropriate.

The book is well written and clearly presented. I can thoroughly recommend it, in particular to the novice technician or graduate student if he/she uses it in conjunction with the companion video which can also be purchased. Although 'expert' users will perhaps be a little surprised to see no reference in such a book to T. Svedberg, the father of centrifugation, they too should find this text useful.

**S. E. H.**