photosynthesis

By EUGENE RABINOWITCH, State University of New York at Albany; and GOVINDJEE, University of Illinois.

"... an excellent job.... It starts out quite simply and gets progressively more technical . . . does a good job of presenting the physics and physical chemistry basic to the subsequent discussions of photosynthesis. This is done more thoroughly than in other comparable books on photosynthesis. . . . The book is well illustrated and the diagrams . . . are particularly good. . . ."—from a pre-publication review

Photosynthesis deals mainly with the physicochemical process in photosynthesis and the enzymatic mechanisms closely associated with it. The authors provide a broad introduction to the subject by discussing the basic physical and chemical concepts relevant to the understanding of photosynthesis such as energy, entropy, free energy, bond strength, and oxidation-reduction potentials. Other subjects covered are the role of photosynthesis, its total yield, the carbon and oxygen cycles in nature, and the origin and evolution of life and its different modes — photoautotrophic, chemiautotrophic, and heterotrophic.

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