


BOOK REVIEW

Title: WRITING A SCIENTIFIC PAPER & SPEAKING AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
Author: Vernon Booth
Publisher: The Biochemical Society, PO Box 32, Commerce Way, Colchester, CO2 8HP, Essex
Price: £2.50 (postage and packing paid) 47 pages

The first and main part of this book describes succinctly all the facets that arise when planning to write a scientific paper. Steps that should be taken before writing, during the actual writing, and in the final presentation are considered. These include notes on: where to start, the use of literary style, and the choice of words in the conveyance of ideas. There are guidelines for punctuation, headings or captions, and the use of abbreviations. Details are given for the preparation of tables and diagrams and for an ultimate revision of the script. Finally there is a guide to correcting the printer's proof; a glossary of printers' terms is included. This part of the book will assist all who aspire to proffer to an editor a really well prepared paper.

The second part of the book describes the craftsmanship needed to make a good presentation when speaking at a scientific meeting. This section contains valuable hints for the preparation of notes as prompter, the importance of deliberate speech, and the use of visual aids. Other practical tips are given which, when they are implemented, will enable every speaker to be better understood by his audience.

The book can be recommended without reserve to all Research Supervisors. It is to be hoped that in their turn they will encourage their students to read it before writing papers or dissertations.

Reductions in the cost of the book are available if ordered in quantity.

Ivan M. Sharman