Preface for Volume 2

Volume 2 contains chapters on the biological and medical aspects of vitamin B_{12}, including transport in microorganisms and man and the quantitation of cobalamins in human serum. In addition, each of the major coenzyme B_{12}-dependent enzymatic reactions are discussed, including methyl transfer, acetate and methionine biosynthesis, amino mutases, diol dehydrase, ethylenediamine ammonia-lyase, ribonucleotide reductase, and the glutamate and methylmalonyl-CoA mutases. Metal-free corrinoids and metal insertion are also covered.

The final result is an up-to-date and critical review of the areas described above. This treatise provides, for the first time, a complete and comprehensive review of all of the major chemical, biochemical, and medical aspects of vitamin B_{12}.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the contributors to this volume for both the scholarship of their work and the promptness with which they all met the various deadlines.

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