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BIOLOGY AND MATERIALS SYNTHESIS

24 Biology and Materials? Part I

M.D. Alper

27 Eggshell Mineralization: A Case Study of a **Bioprocessing Strategy**

D.J. Fink, A.I. Caplan, and A.H. Heuer

32 **Biomineralization: Biomimetic Potential at the Inorganic-Organic Interface**

S. Mann with D.D. Archibald, J.M. Didymus, B.R. Heywood, F.C. Meldrum, and V.J. Wade

37 **Biomimetic Ceramics and** Composites P. Calvert

41 **Biosynthesis and Processing of Silk Proteins**

D.L. Kaplan, S.A. Fossey, and C.M. Mello with S. Arcidiacono, K. Senecal, W.S. Muller, S. Stockwell, R. Beckwitt, C. Viney, and K.F. Kerkam

48 Genetic Production of Synthetic Protein Polymers J. Cappello

54 New Carbohydrate-Based **Polymeric Materials**

M.R. Callstrom and M.D. Bednarski

MRS NEWS

- 7 **MRS Treasurer's Report**
- 60 Preview: **1992 MRS Fall Meeting**
- 66 **Call for Papers:** 1993 MRS Spring Meeting

DEPARTMENTS

- 11 Material Matters
- 13 **Research/Researchers**
- 21 From Washington
- 22 Resources
- 23 **Editor's Choice**
- 68 **University Chapter News**
- 69 **Historical Note**
- 70 **Book Reviews**
- 71 Classified
- 72 Advertisers in This Issue



ON THE COVER: Artist Marilee Bailey's view of Biomaterials. The double-stranded helix of DNA opens to allow transcription and synthesis of mRNA, which is translated on the ribosome to produce the genetically defined amino acid sequence of the protein. Some proteins fold to become enzymes, catalyzing reactions leading to the synthesis of materials. Others fold and become embedded in self-assembling membranes and, in some cases-with attached carbohydrate groupsfunction in transport electron transfer, sensing, adhesion. Still other proteins serve as matrices for biomineralization, while others assemble into fibers such as silk or collagen for roles as structural materials. Detailed information on biology and materials synthesis begins on page 24.

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