Fraser, J.: **How to Publish in Biomedicine**. - Radcliffe Medical Press, Abingdon 1997. ISBN 1 85775 193 0. 216 pp., GBP 16.50.

This manual for future authors of scientific papers has a non-traditional form. All contained recommendations are presented as 500 tips. In each of them, a brief statement is accompanied with (usually) only one paragraph of explanations. They are brief, clear, concise, and generally acceptable.

The tips are arranged into 33 chapters, the first ones explaining the publishing process and selection of the right journal. Planning and writing research papers is the topic of the following 16 chapters (this part includes also writing of conference abstracts, reviews, and book chapters; dealing with editorial offices is also included). Special chapters (21 to 23) show how to write theses, dissertations, books, and popular scientific articles. Chapters 24 to 27 are on clear and correct writing in English. Overcoming writer's block and finding time for writing and correcting the manuscript are discussed next. Two chapters (30 and 31) are on the use of personal computers (with addresses where one can buy software for reference management, mind-mapping, voice recognition, *etc.*). Chapter 32 deals with the World Wide Web (with www addresses). Chapter 33 contains references selected for further reading (17 books).

There are very few figures and tables, but two appendices: one explains the Vancouver rules for biomedical journals, and the second brings a very useful summary list for checking manuscripts (partial checklists are also on pp. 40, 49, 56, 62, 67, 76, 86). A very detailed subject index is supplemented.

I feel an affinity to the author, because during the second half of my scientific carrier I have shared her statement: "I liked writing about the experiments more than I liked doing them". She has evidently a large experience in biomedical editing and publishing. Therefore I disagree with her in a few points only: Why does she use so often words such as "conduct, perform"? Her explanation of the impact factors (p. 20) is not true. Premature publication of interim results (p. 44) may have negative results.

Great advantage of this book is that it spares the reader's time: one can go rapidly through the tips and read the respective explanatory paragraphs only when necessary. The book is prepared mainly for medicine doctors, but it will help also to beginners in other biological disciplines. Hence, "Publish and flourish!'

Z. ŠESTÁK (*Praha*)