

(Singer & Nicolson, 1972). Cell membranes are quasifluid with viscous lipid bilayer having proteins at places (mosaic) both on the surface and inside. Singer & Nicolson have described cell membranes as protein icebergs in sea of lipids. External proteins are called EXTRINSIC or PERIPHERAL (30% of total) while internal proteins are named INTRINSIC or INTEGRAL (70% of total).

Membrane proteins may function as enzymes, permeases, carriers, receptors etc. Proteins extending from outside to inside are called 'tunnel proteins' or 'transmembrane proteins'. They function as channels. At places the external proteins and lipid molecules bear oligosaccharides forming glycoproteins and glycolipids for recognition; attachment and antigenic properties. They make the cell membrane asymmetric. Lipid nature of the cell membrane can