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Peptides ! — Proteins are made up of many  $\alpha$ -amino acids bonded together by a peptide linkage formed between the amino group of one amino acid and the carboxyl group of another. When two amino acids combine in this way, the resulting product is called a dipeptide. When three amino acids combine together the product is called a Tripeptide. When four amino acids combine, the product is called a Tetrapeptide and when many amino acids combine in this way, the product is called a Polypeptide. Proteins are polypeptide containing at least 100 or more amino acids, but there is no clear cut line of division between peptides and proteins. However, one can say that proteins are high molecular mass polypeptides.

N-Terminal and C-Terminal amino acid residues ! — In a peptide the amino acid that contains the free carboxyl groups is called the C-terminal residue. It is always written on the right-hand side of the polypeptide chain. Similarly, the amino-

acid that contains the free amino group is called the N-terminal residue. It is always written on the left-hand side of the polypeptide chain.

