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Book Review

Progress in Medicinal Chemistry Volume 30

G.W. Ellis and D.K. Luscombe (Eds)

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Price: Dfl 325 (US \$ 185.75) (hardcover); viii + 396 pages.

This latest issue of a long-running series reviews the rapidly expanding family of retinoids (J.B. Gale), the semi-synthetic derivatives of erythromycin (H.A. Kirst), and the biological significance of manganese in mammalian systems (F.C. Wedler). The remaining three chapters cover an approach to the chemotopography of the digitalis recognition matrix in Na⁺/K⁺-transporting ATPase as a step in the rational design of inotropic steroids (K.R.H. Repke, J. Weiland, R. Megges and R. Schön), amidines and guanidines in medicinal chemistry (J.V. Greenhill and Ping Lue), and inhibitors of enkephalin-degrading enzymes as potential therapeutic agents (A. Patel, H.J. Smith and R.D.E. Sewell).

The secret of the success of this volume and indeed of its predecessors is that it provides well-written and prepared, reviews of substances or topics at the forefront of advances in medicinal chemistry. I write with some interest in this

since I contributed to the first volume some 30 years ago and have followed the successive volumes since then.

Each chapter in the present volume has a very extensive reference list and the volume is well indexed with a subject index for the volume and a cumulative author and subject index for volumes 1–30. The book is well presented by the editors and the only criticism that I have is the price which I think is excessive. This will probably mean that the book will only be available in scientific libraries; this is a pity since it is an excellent reference volume that will keep interested students and researchers up-to-date in current knowledge.

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