

## BOOK REVIEW

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### A Review of *Analysis of Drugs of Abuse*

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**REFERENCE:** Berman, Eleanor, *Analysis of Drugs of Abuse*, Heyden & Son Inc., Bellmawr, N.J., 1976, 96 pages, \$11.00.

This book is part of a series of monographs, compact in its makeup and designed to give the reader easy access to pertinent information concerning the analysis of drugs of abuse.

The author begins by briefly considering man's past involvement with drugs and his current use or misuse of them. The evolution of instrumentation, techniques, and methodology over the years; the theoretical application of different instruments, methods, and reactions; and the advantages, disadvantages, and limitations of each are discussed. Precautions that should be taken to insure optimum results are also pointed out. The plain and clear-cut presentation offers helpful hints to the novice in toxicology and also aids the expert by providing a quick reference and recall of minor details. Although some procedures are touched upon briefly, the book does not list them step by step, nor was it intended to be used for this purpose. It can, however, be used to improve one's technique. The reader is informed by specific examples accompanied by a liberal number of figures and tables. I took special interest in the author's chapter "Do A Toxicology!" in which she discusses the importance of having a clinical history and the astute observations one should make to obtain a large amount of toxicological information within a reasonable time. Since therapeutic monitoring plays such an important role in patient treatment, Dr. Berman concludes her presentation with a chapter on this subject.

The book is informative and gives good, helpful tips without the cumbersomeness of detailed procedures. It lists 130 references along with a five-page appendix illustrating, in alphabetical order, the ultraviolet absorption spectra of various drugs. It adequately fulfills the criteria of a small reference book that is readily available. I recommend its addition to your personal or laboratory library.

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