

BOOK REVIEWS

Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man

Volume I Centrally-acting drugs

Randall C. Baselt

Biomedical Publications, Canton, Connecticut USA 1978, pp.306

Volume I is the first of a two volume work by the author intended to provide a single convenient source of essential information on the disposition of the chemicals and drugs most frequently encountered in episodes of human poisoning.

This volume discusses in detail 129 drugs which affect the central nervous system under the headings analgesics, anesthetics, anticonvulsants, ataractics, hallucinogens, psychostimulants and sedative-hypnotics. The properties, disposition, metabolism and assay are discussed for each drug and is followed by pertinent references. The volume has approximately 1054 references which are well up-to-date including some for 1977 and provides a source for more information on each drug.

In some respects the subject matter is treated superficially in that for in depth information it is necessary to consult the references cited for each drug. This applies especially to the information on the assay and analytical techniques for the drugs discussed.

The book is written in a very readable style and the printing by typescript photography is very clear and free of any significant number of errors.

Overall this first volume is a useful compilation of information which

provides a convenient reference for pharmacologists, toxicologists, clinical chemists and for students of these subjects.

Volume 2 will discuss peripherally-acting drugs and common toxic chemicals to complete the two volume work.

At £15.80 the book is not overpriced for a "hard cover".

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Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man

Volume 2 Peripherally-acting drugs and common toxic chemicals

Randall C. Baselt

Biomedical Publications, Canton, Connecticut USA, pp.281

Volume 2 of this two volumes work by the author is presented in the same very readable style as with volume 1. In this case also the printing by typescript photography is very clear and is without any significant errors.

This volume is divided into two principal sections. The first section describes the disposition and metabolism of forty peripherally-acting drugs grouped under the headings anticoagulants, antidiabetics, antihypertensive agents, antiinflammatory agents, cardiac drugs, decongestants, local anesthetics, miscellaneous agents and muscle relaxants. The second section usefully discusses forty one common toxic chemicals which includes anions such as cyanide, fluoride, oxalate and sulfide; liquids and gases such as benzene, methanol, toluene,