

BOOK REVIEW

Medicinal Chemistry. Vol. V. WALTER H. HARTUNG, editor, and ERNEST E. CAMPAIGNE, associate editor. Prepared under the auspices of the Division of Medicinal Chemistry, American Chemical Society. viii + 432 pp. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1961. \$18.00.

Volume V of this Series was published one day before the death of its editor, Walter H. Hartung, one of the founders of medicinal chemistry in the United States. Like the preceding volumes, it contains reviews which include references to all the published compounds tested for a particular type of biological activity, or all those chemically related compounds active in such respect. The present volume contains only two chapters: Anticonvulsant Drugs, by Warren J. Close and Marvin A. Spielman of Abbott Laboratories (349 pp., 1113 references, plus a complete list of patents), and Bis(4-aminophenyl)sulfone and Related Compounds in Tuberculosis and Leprosy, by Leonard Doub of Parke, Davis and Co. (75 pp., 14 Tables, 248 references). The chapter on anticonvulsants covers a history and classification of the epilepsies and antiepileptic drugs, a review of screening methods for anticonvulsants, a discussion of classes of such drugs, their mode of action, distribution and metabolism, and structure-activity relationships followed by 265 Tables listing these activities in different tests for all compounds in the literature to January 1, 1959. The topics are presented lucidly and comprehensively, and will relieve any future investigator of the enormous task of searching the literature for compounds that have been studied as anticonvulsants. The only real regret one will have is the use of American Trade Names for drugs prescribed in this country. This is unfortunate at this time when young pharmacists, medical students and pharmacologists are taught to use generic names.

The review on antileprotic and antituberculous sulfones brings the history and preparation of these compounds, their mechanism of action, toxicity and metabolic fate. Test methods in experimental tuberculosis and leprosy are compiled critically, and both their advantages and weaknesses are pointed out. The Tables list all pertinent compounds up to the end of 1959. Again, a clear and easy presentation makes for interesting reading. One can only hope that future Volumes of this Series will measure up to this carefully prepared book.

ALFRED BURGER
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.