

BOOK REVIEWS

Scientific Reports of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy. D. MAROTTA, Editor. Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam. Vol. 1, 1961, 500 pp. \$24.00 yearly subscription.

For years, the Reports from this Institute have been published in Italian. They have covered some of the most important chemical and pharmacological work of recent decades but have been read through abstracts journals only by most investigators. Now that an expanded version is available in English, this quarterly journal will be found on the desks of many medicinal scientists. The list of authors is impressive: led by Daniel Bovet, members and visitors to the Institute have contributed some of their best articles. Subjects range from natural products and quantum chemistry to psychopharmacology, biochemistry and allied fields. Paper and print are superior, formulas and graphs are excellently reproduced. We wish our sister publication in Italy success and good fortune.

ALFRED BURGER

Annual Review of Pharmacology. Vol. 2, WINDSOR C. CUTTING, ed., R. H. DREISBACH and H. W. ELLIOTT, associate eds. Annual Reviews, Inc., Palo Alto, California. 477 pp. \$7.00. Reviewed by Alfred Burger, University of Virginia.

The second annual volume of this series follows the excellent pattern set by last year's Review. Three chapters on highlights of pharmacology in Middle China, India and Central Europe leave the Western reader with a feeling of relief that American and British pharmacology continues to hold a considerable lead. J. H. Gaddum discusses the pharmacologists of Edinburgh, and Chauncey D. Leake offers one of his famous review of reviews. One cannot help but wonder where Prof. Leake finds the time to read as much and as thoroughly, and to report his reading to his colleagues.

The main body of the book comprises 13 excellent reviews on current and very recent developments in diverse areas of pharmacology and medicinal chemistry. B. M. Bloom, G. D. Laubach, E. F. Elslager and T. A. Geissman are chemists who are writing authoritatively on topics regarded in the province of pharmacology. The increasing interdependence of these fields is emphasized by the participation of these authors. The reader will find comprehensive and up-to-date factual reporting in all of the chapters, and novel conclusions in some of them. This reviewer enjoyed especially the chapters on overall structure-activity relationships with a searching section on receptor sites, a section on metabolism of drugs, invertebrate pharmacology, and drugs affecting blood pressure and vasomotor tone, including a survey of the latest autonomic transmitter mechanisms. M. B. Chenoweth and C. L. Hake review the small halogenated hydrocarbons and have attempted to restore chloroform from a much maligned position to a useful anesthetic.

All chapters reflect careful editing and choice of authors of high standing. This review series should be required reading for medicinal chemists and their professional allies.