

Book Reviews

Newer Methods in Preparative Organic Chemistry. Vol. 2.

Edited by WILHELM FOERST. Translated from the German by F. K. KIRCHNER. xv + 417 pp. Academic Press, New York, N. Y., 1963. \$14.50.

This volume is a collection of translations of articles which appeared originally in German in *Angewandte Chemie*, in which the editor had selected what seemed topical and important. The text includes three chapters on alkylation; aromatic amines, phenols, and amidomethylation; eight chapters on synthesis of intermediates and their reactions, ethyl 2-cyclopentanone carboxylate, ketene, acetoacetaldehyde, amides or imides to peptides and ureas, 1,3-cyclohexanediones to long-chain carboxylic acids, intermediates of carbohydrate metabolism, phenylsodium (continuous preparation), and phosphines; two chapters on oxidation, noble metal catalysts, and lead tetraacetate; and one chapter on reductions of carbonyl compounds by complex hydrides.

Most chapters cover the literature on the whole to about 1959 or 1960. The reviews are designed to give a synthetic rather than a mechanistic emphasis to the reader. All chapters except the reduction of carbonyl compounds by complex hydrides give laboratory procedures. The book will help the chemist who is just entering one of the areas covered and wants a brief review. Someone familiar with one or more areas will be glad to have the remainder of the topics at his fingertips. Some chapters are written a little more clearly than others; in general, the text is easy reading and the translation into English is good.

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Advances in Organic Chemistry. Methods and Results. Vol. 4.

Edited by R. A. RAPHAEL, E. C. TAYLOR, and H. WYNBERG. vii + 359 pp. Interscience Publishers (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.), New York, N. Y., 1963. \$14.50.

As in the preceding volumes [see *J. Med. Chem.*, 6, 466 (1963)], experts present a few chapters in their specialties: J. Szmuszkowicz discusses enamines; O. Isler and P. Schudel write on synthetic methods in the carotenoid and vitamin A fields; and G. Eglinton and W. McCrae review the coupling of acetylenic compounds. Depending on the chapter, synthetic methods, reaction mechanism, chemical and physical properties of the compounds concerned are listed. Almost every example illustrating these facets has been culled from the remarkably up-to-date literature and placed in tables. This is a valuable book for those who want to work in the reported areas, and those who will delight in the unusual organic reactions surveyed in the three chapters. The style is readable, and the make-up of the book pleasing.

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ALFRED BURGER

Histo-Enzymologie des Glandes Endocrines. By Mlle. L.

ARVY. 252 pp. 16 × 25 cm. Gauthiers-Villards & Cie., Paris, 1963. Francs 60.

This small paper-backed volume recounts the enzymatic activities histochemically observable in endocrine glands, and attempts to coordinate these activities with the hormones elaborated by the respective glands. A picture emerges of enzyme systems, revealed by staining techniques in glandular tissues, and which contain hormones as part of their chain mechanisms, or contribute to the biosynthesis of such hormones. Innumerable papers from diverse areas of the literature have been scanned by the author and brought into juxtaposition under the heading of the respective gland, or activity. There is an author index, a good subject index, and the book is richly illustrated with microphotographs. Mammalian, amphibian, avian and fish glands, and enzyme systems are described, and in this regard the book is a contribution to functional comparative endocrinology.

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Hallucinogenic Drugs and their Psychotherapeutic Use. Edited

by RICHARD CROCKETT, R. A. SANDERSON, and ALEXANDER WOLK. 191 pp. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1963.

This book consists of the proceedings of the quarterly meeting of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association in London in 1961, which devoted itself to the subject of hallucinogenic, or as they prefer to term them, psycholytic drugs and their psychotherapeutic applications.

The first chapter is a somewhat less than thorough review of the historical and pharmacological background of the psychotomimetics which by reason of its brevity, must be disappointing to all but those obviously unchemically oriented physicians who constitute the majority of the conference's participants.

The next four chapters deal with matter of more purely psychiatric interest. The participants are in general agreement that the drugs, particularly LSD-25 are useful because they facilitate conscious recall of previously repressed material, but must be employed only as adjuncts to more or less orthodox analysis. Unfortunately, there is no general agreement as to the most desirable analytic method, as a result of which the participants lapse with regrettable frequency into discussions of analytic technique. During these discussions the psycholytics themselves are all but forgotten. Despite these disagreements and digressions, the reader can glean from this book some idea of the types of mental illness in which the hallucinogenic drugs seem most useful, criteria for patient selection, and methodology of drug administration. For scholarly psychopharmacology, however, he had best look elsewhere.

In the final chapter, four "articulate laymen" including a member of Parliament, a journalist, a social anthropologist, and a historian, all of whom have taken mescaline, discuss the moral, religious, and social significance of experience under hallucinogenic drugs. They are all interesting, and occasionally quite original.

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