

are provided. Each chapter is thoroughly referenced, mainly with material from 1985–1997. It is pointed out that TLC is reviewed every 2 years in the Fundamental Reviews Issue of *Analytical Chemistry*.

The section on theory and practice of TLC has 11 chapters including history, theory, materials, instrumentation, detection, and quantitation. The applications section has 10 chapters including those on organic dyes, natural pigments, lipids, amino acids, carbohydrates, steroids, and pharmaceuticals. Each of these 10 chapters has a detailed description of experiments suitable for a student laboratory.

Of major interest to medicinal chemists is the chapter on pharmaceuticals which has sections on barbiturates, tricyclic antidepressants, benzodiazepines, theophylline, aspirin, cardiac glycosides, and antiarrhythmic drugs. A detailed experiment is provided on separation of drugs of abuse from urine and another on the determination of aspirin and caffeine in analgesic tablets. Although not given a separate section in this book, TLC is widely used to monitor the course of chemical syntheses.

The enthusiasm of the authors for TLC and the thoroughness of their presentation makes a reader who has not used this technique wish to try it for fun in addition to the useful results likely to accrue.

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Principles of Chemical Nomenclature. A Guide to IUPAC Recommendations. Edited by G. J. Leigh. Blackwell Science, Oxford, U.K. 1998. viii + 133 pp. 19 x 27 cm. ISBN 0-86542-685-6. \$28.50.

This is a very nice, brief discussion of the rules of nomenclature for the major classes of molecules with which the medicinal or organic chemist may deal. A

variety of examples are given for most of the rules, such that it is relatively easy to learn to apply the rules in different situations. Many of these types of nomenclature questions are not always well-remembered or perhaps not yet learned (in the case of students). The book begins with discussion of the use and representation of formulas and progresses to consideration of complex nomenclature of organic, inorganic, and organometallic compounds. A book of this brevity omits coverage of some types of compounds. While these omissions are not always insignificant, it is probably impossible to cover all types of compounds in a brief guide such as this. The reader is directed to several in-depth volumes for a more complete guide to nomenclature.

While I noticed no errors, there are a few aspects that American readers may find confusing. For example, *LithAl* is (to me) an unfamiliar British acronym for lithium aluminum hydride.

One of the real pluses of the book is the tables of names of ions, groups, ligands, and ligand abbreviations. The table of names of ions and groups (Table 4.1) comprises 14 pages of the various common and IUPAC names. For most organic chemists, remembering the abbreviations of ligands for inorganic compounds is not always second nature, and this book contains a helpful compilation of such abbreviations. One minor error in Table 4.5 is the listing of *Bzl* as an abbreviation for benzyl (PhCH₂). Most journals use *Bn* for benzyl and *Bz* for benzoyl.

I strongly recommend this book to all medicinal and organic chemists, both students and practitioners. For its modest price, this is a great little book for one's personal bookshelf.

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