

BOOK REVIEWS

Coca and Cocaine, 1981, Edited by L. RIVIER, Lausanne, Switzerland. Elsevier Sequoia S.A., P. O. Box 851, CH-1001, Lausanne 1, Switzerland. 260 pp. 16.5 x 24 cm. \$60.00.

This special issue of the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* contains articles based on papers presented at the Symposium "*Erythroxylon—New Historical and Scientific Aspects*" sponsored by the Botanical Museum of Harvard University and Casa de la Cultura del Ecuador, and held in Quito, Ecuador, December 3-5, 1979.

Pharmacognosy, V. E. TYLER, School of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences, Purdue University, L. R. BRADY, School of Pharmacy, University of Washington, and J. E. ROBBERS, School of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences, Purdue University. Lea & Febiger, Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106. 8th Edition, 1981. x+520 pp. 18 x 26 cm. \$31.50.

Most persons associated with natural drug products are familiar with previous editions of this book. It has been for some years the only comprehensive work in this field published in the United States, and as such, it has been a standard textbook utilized in Schools and Colleges of Pharmacy. There are no other works published in this country with which it can be compared. In addition, it has served as an excellent reference work on natural drug products for any persons involved in health care delivery. Also, especially in this latest edition, it can serve as a good source of factual material for that ever increasing body of persons which has been turning to so-called health foods and herbal medicines over the last decade or so.

An introductory chapter treats general pharmacognostic topics such as harvesting of crude drugs, their preparation for market, systems of classification, etc. Although this material is not treated in depth, the treatment does provide adequate introduction to these concepts and processes for today's student of pharmacy.

Subsequent chapters treat various classes of natural drugs. Many of the chapters group drug substances according to their chemical or biosynthetic similarities—e.g., "Carbohydrates and Related Compounds." Other chapters group drugs which have therapeutic similarity—e.g., "Antibiotics."

Each chapter begins with a section of general information, such as the chemistry of the class, the biosynthesis of typical members of the class, methods of production or preparation, general medicinal or pharmaceutical uses of the class, general mechanisms of physiological activity, etc. The major portion of each of the chapters consists of monographs on specific drug substances. In addition to the expected monographic information, such as nomenclature, source, chemical specifics, use, etc., the names of typical commercial drug products which contain the drug are included where appropriate. Certainly, most all natural drug substances of present-day commercial and/or therapeutic significance are included in these monographs. The authors have consciously and conscientiously eliminated many natural drug substances, which were formerly in common use, from the chapters devoted to the various drug classes. Many of the old drugs, however, have been included in a chapter, new to this edition, entitled "Herbs and Health Foods." This chapter, a valuable addition to the book, presents not only monographs on many of the natural substances being sold today as health foods, but also includes discussion of such topics as "legality of sale," and "safety and efficacy considerations." In addition, a chapter on selected poisonous plants is included, as it was for the first time in the 7th edition.

This book is well illustrated, where appropriate, with chemical structures, biosynthetic pathways, etc. A moderate number of photographic illustrations is also included. The book is thoroughly indexed. Footnotes and specific references are not utilized within the textual material, but each chapter concludes with a generous list of appropriate "Reading References." It is interesting to note that the chapter on health foods concludes with a list of "Authoritative Literature," and a list of "Advocacy Literature."

This excellent book continues as the premier work of its type in the English language.

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