

examined chromatographically, essentially as described by Tyler (3). Solvent systems employed included water-saturated *n*-butanol, *n*-butanol:acetic acid:water (4:1:5), and *n*-propanol:1 *N* ammonia (5:1). In all three of these systems, a compound was detected by spraying with 2% *p*-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde in 1 *N* hydrochloric acid (blue-violet color) and with Pauly's reagent (orange-red color). It had an  $R_f$  value identical with reference psilocin and did not separate from that compound when spotted in admixture. Tryptophan was also identified on the chromatograms by its characteristic  $R_f$  value and the color formed with the *p*-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde reagent, but psilocybin could not be detected.

Failure to detect psilocybin is remarkable in that it is more stable than psilocin and has been found in every hallucinogenic *Psilocybe* species which has been investigated for its presence, although it is not always accompanied by de-

tectable amounts of psilocin (4). Since psilocin is known to possess psychotropic activity following ingestion, *Psilocybe baeocystis* must be added to the ever increasing list of hallucinogenic mushrooms (5). It is the second such species whose reported distribution is restricted to the northwestern United States (3).

- (1) Singer, R., and Smith, A. H., *Mycologia*, **50**, 262(1958).
- (2) McKenny, M., Olympia, Wash., personal communication, March 31, 1961.
- (3) Tyler, V. E., Jr., *Lloydia*, **24**, 71(1961).
- (4) Heim, R., and Hofmana, A., *Compt. rend.*, **247**, 557(1958).
- (5) Wasson, R. G., *Botan. Museum Leaflets, Harvard Univ.*, **19**, 137(1961).

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## Book Notices

*Précis de Microbiologie*. Vol. 1, Technique Microbiologique Microbiologie Générale. By S. LAMBIN and A. GERMAN. Masson & Cie., 120, boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris VI<sup>e</sup>, 1961. viii + 458 pp. 16 × 21 cm. Price 39 NF.

Volume one of this series (in French) is divided into two parts: microbiological technique and general microbiology. It is intended for use as a textbook for pharmacy students. A general index is appended.

*Microtechniques of Clinical Chemistry*. 2nd ed. By SAMUEL MATELSON. Charles C Thomas, 301-327 East Lawrence Ave., Springfield, Ill., 1961. xv + 578 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price \$14.75.

New sections in this edition cover emission spectroscopy, automation, gas chromatography, and the theory and technique of the urea and creatinine clearance tests. The revised and expanded text is intended to make the book more suitable for use in teaching analytical clinical chemistry. Author and subject indexes are included.

*Medicinal Chemistry*. Vol. 5. Edited by WALTER H. HARTUNG. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 440 Park Ave. South, New York 16, N. Y., 1961. vi + 432 pp. 14.5 × 23 cm. Price \$18.

Volume five of this monograph series covers Anticonvulsant drugs and Bis(4-aminophenyl) sulfone and related compounds in tuberculosis and leprosy. The style and format of the earlier volumes are continued, and the objective to include in each chapter or monograph references to all the compounds that

have been tested for a particular type of pharmacological activity still maintains. The extent of the work with anticonvulsants is indicated by the 1,113 references to publications and 16 pages of patents grouped according to chemical types. A general index is appended.

*Structural Forms of Anesthetic Compounds*. By HUGH S. MATHEWSON. Charles C Thomas, 301-327 East Lawrence Ave., Springfield, Ill., 1961. xvi + 223 pp. 15 × 22.5 cm. Price \$6.75

Intended as an introductory text, this book is based upon seminars on anesthetic drugs. The relation of structure-activity principles to the pharmacologic properties of drugs in clinical use by anesthesiologists is the frame upon which the subject is developed. An index is appended.

*Progesterone and the Defence Mechanism of Pregnancy*. Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and MARGARET P. CAMERON. Little, Brown and Co., 34 Beacon St., Boston 6, Mass., 1961. viii + 108 pp. 12 × 18.5 cm.

A compilation of the reports by the Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 9 in February 1961. A general index is included.

*Biological Activity of the Leucocyte*. Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and MAEVE O'CONNOR. Little, Brown and Co., 34 Beacon St., Boston 6, Mass., 1961. viii × 120 pp. 12 × 18.5 cm.

A compilation of the reports by the Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 10 in March 1961. A general index is included.