

*Pharmazeutisches Taschenbuch*. 5th ed. Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft MBH., Postfach 40, Stuttgart, Germany, 1962. vii + 1158 pp. 17 × 11.5 cm. Price DM 58.

For persons working in the pharmaceutical and related sciences, this handbook (in German) collects a considerable amount of information, mainly in tabular form, on drugs. Much of the information available in this book can be obtained by consulting other reference sources; its chief contribution would seem to be as a ready, compact, reference source. Sections on formulas frequently used in German hospitals, formulas for reagents, preparation of ointments, practical information derived from the German pharmacopeia, and an extensive section on solubilities, incompatibilities, largest permissible single and daily doses of numerous drugs are included. In addition, there are sections devoted to analytical methods, instruments and apparatus, and an index of non-proprietary names giving the corresponding chemical name in English.

*Rapid Microchemical Identification Methods in Pharmacy and Toxicology*. By Felix Amelink. Publisher in U. S.: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Interscience Division, 440 Park Ave. South, New York 16, N. Y., 1962. vi + 121 pp. 13.5 × 19 cm. Price \$9.

The volume deals with rapid microchemical identification techniques for sulfonamides, sulfones, barbiturates, thiobarbiturates, and hydantoins. It was originally published in the Netherlands and translated from the Dutch manuscript for publication in this country. The procedures described require few reagents and little equipment; nine reagents suffice for the sulfonamides and sulfones and five are sufficient for the barbiturates, thiobarbiturates, and hydantoins. Detailed information for the identification of the substances is provided, including color reactions with the various reagents, optical characteristics, and melting points. The book discusses first the microchemical method and utensils, the polarizing microscope, reagents, and extraction methods. The substances are treated as two main groups, sulfas and barbiturates. Under each section a table of melting point information, a list of synonyms for each substance, and then a section listing the reactions and results of reagents with the particular substance involved is included. Also included is a separate pamphlet of drawings showing the characteristic crystal formations of the substances with the various reagents. This book should provide invaluable assistance to those working with microchemical identification techniques.

*Trees and Shrubs of Mexico*. By P. C. Standley. Reprinted by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C., 1961. 15.5 × 24 cm. Price \$20.

The Smithsonian Institution has reprinted Paul C. Standley's *Trees and Shrubs of Mexico*, Contr. U. S. National Herbarium, Vol. 23, 1920-26, Part 1 (pp. xvii + 1-170) Part 2 (pp. xviii + 171-515) 3 (pp. xxviii + 517-848), and 5 (ii + 1313-1721), in 2 paper-bound volumes containing pts. 1-3 and pt. 5, respectively. The price of these 4 parts is \$20, post-paid. Part 4 (pp. xxxix + 849-1312), which is available in the original 1924 edition published by the U. S. National Museum, will be enclosed free of charge to complete the set of 5 parts unless specific instructions to the contrary are received. Orders should be accompanied by check and addressed to Publications Distribution Section, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.

*Annual Review of Biochemistry*. Vol. 31. Edited by J. M. Luck. Annual Reviews, Inc., 231 Grant Ave., Palo Alto, Calif., 1962. vii + 731 pp. 15 × 22 cm. Price \$7.

The current volume, like its predecessors, is an annual review of the principal advances in the field of biochemistry. Topics covered in this volume include Biological oxidations, Oxidative phosphorylation, Chemistry of the carbohydrates, Chemistry of the lipids, Chemistry of peptides and proteins, Amino acid metabolism, Chemistry and function of polypeptide hormones, Nucleic acids; molecular biology of DNA, Metabolism of nucleic acids, Protein biosynthesis, Lipid metabolism, Carbohydrate metabolism, Biochemistry of the water-soluble vitamins, Fat-soluble vitamins, Nutrition—germfree animal research, Biochemistry of cancer (immunological aspects), Inborn errors of metabolism, Biochemistry of fungi, Immunology, and Insect nutrition. Author and subject indexes for Vol. 31 as well as cumulative author and chapter title indexes for Vols. 27-31 are appended.

*Pharmacogenetics, Heredity and the Response to Drugs*. By WERNER KALOW. W. B. Saunders Co., West Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1962. vi + 231 pp. 18 × 26 cm.

This volume, apparently a pioneer effort in its field, deals with pharmacologic responses and their modification by hereditary influences, *i.e.*, pharmacogenetics. The book stresses genetic factors which cause an alteration of drug response but the book can only be said to point out illustrative examples of genetic influence on therapeutic response to certain drugs. However, it appears to be an excellent starting point for those interested in this newer field of pharmacogenetics. An adequate index is appended for ready reference and lists of source materials, both genetic and pharmacologic, follow each section to facilitate further study of the topic discussed. Unfortunately, the text is set in "cold type" which reduces its readability.