

*Steroid Reactions, An Outline for Organic Chemists.*

Edited by CARL DJERASSI. Holden-Day, Inc., 728 Montgomery St., San Francisco 11, Calif., 1963. vi + 657 pp. 19 × 26 cm. Price \$9.75.

Designed as a tool for graduate students and research chemists to permit ready reference to the details for appropriate conditions to accomplish a certain reaction, this volume will undoubtedly provide an excellent bridge for many workers. Textual statements are sparse but the organic reaction schemes are numerous with conditions and yields specified. Literature references are included and brief textual notes are inserted where appropriate.

*Molecular Rearrangements, Part I.* Edited by PAUL DE MAYO. Interscience Publishers, 605 Third Ave., New York 16, N. Y., 1963. xii + 706 pp. 15 × 23.5 cm. Price \$25.

A thorough and detailed treatment on the rearrangements of organic molecules is presented in this two-part work prepared by group of outstanding chemists from the United States and other countries. The two volumes cover most of the well-known molecular rearrangements. The various rearrangements are divided into classes and discussed on the basis of mechanism of action in Part I. Rearrangements that occur in the most important classes of natural products are discussed in Part II.

*The Specificity of Serological Reactions.* By KARL LANDSTEINER. Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York 14, N. Y., 1962. xviii + 330 pp. 13.5 × 21.5 cm. Price \$2. Paperbound.

Reports of studies by Dr. Karl Landsteiner, a 1930 Nobel Prize recipient, on antigens and serological reactions with simple compounds is presented. The work concentrates on the chemical aspects of immunological reactions and provides a concise survey of the basic concepts of immunology. An extensive bibliography of Dr. Landsteiner's writings is appended.

*Fatty Acid Metabolism in Microorganisms.* By KLAUS HOFMANN. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York 16, N. Y., 1963. xii + 78 pp. 12.5 × 19 cm. Price \$3.25.

A summarization of recent developments and studies with certain phases of fatty acid metabolism in microorganisms is presented. The volume treats the discovery and chemistry of cyclopropane fatty acids, the chemical nature of monounsaturated fatty acids in bacteria, the quantitative estimation of fatty acids in bacterial lipids, the biosynthesis of the cyclopropane ring, and the anaerobic biosynthesis of monosaturated fatty acids in microorganisms. The necessary experimental work was done in the chemistry and biochemistry departments of the University of Pittsburgh by the author.

*British Pharmaceutical Codex 1963.* COUNCIL OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN. The Pharmaceutical Press, 17 Bloomsbury Square WC 1, London, England, 1963. xxxvi + 1433 pp. 14 × 22 cm. Price \$23.75.

This edition of the *Codex* again presents au-

thoritative and useful therapeutic information as well as recognized and accepted standards for many pharmaceuticals and dosage forms not included in the *British Pharmacopoeia* in the usual high tradition of this compendium. The general format and arrangement found so popular and convenient with prior editions has been retained but the publication schedule has been accelerated to parallel that of the B. P. Several of the monographs incorporate infrared identification procedures; appropriate authentic specimens for the infrared procedures have been established. Over 200 new admissions are included in this edition and, as in the past, Parts II through VI provide monographs on immunological products, human blood preparations, surgical sutures, surgical dressings, and formulary preparations. In addition, several new appendixes have been added covering aerosol propellants, a system for the classification of powders, a table of standard wire gauges, and additional analytical information to aid the examination of various pharmaceutical products. Undoubtedly, pharmaceutical and medical practitioners in the United Kingdom will continue to place heavy reliance upon the *Codex* for the most concise and reliable information on today's leading pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical scientists in the United States will find this edition a useful reference.

*Alternating Current Polarography and Tensammetry.* By B. BREYER and H. H. BAUER. Interscience Publishers, 605 Third Ave., New York 16, N. Y., 1963. xix + 288 pp. 15 × 23.5 cm. Price \$12.

This thirteenth volume in the "Chemical Analysis" series presents a monograph on what is probably the most active area of electrochemical techniques. The work includes a chapter which provides a historical introduction to a.c. polarography and tensammetry, another giving a connected account of quantitative theoretical treatments of electrode processes under the influence of small superposed alternating voltages, another describing the necessary apparatus in detail. In addition, other chapters discuss the main results which have been obtained in the study of various organic and inorganic substances and mechanisms of electrode processes. While the book would serve best to acquaint the reader with the essentials of this technique, the presentation has been arranged so that relevant information on the analytical uses of the a.c. technique is readily accessible.

*Handbook of Ocular Therapeutics and Pharmacology.* Edited by PHILIP P. ELLIS and DONN L. SMITH. The C. V. Mosby Co., 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Mo., 1963. 193 pp. 17 × 24.5 cm. Price \$8.50.

An encyclopedia-like handbook on ocular therapy and therapeutics is presented in this brief volume. One section covers the therapeutic aspects of the more common ocular diseases in summary form and another discusses the pharmacology of therapeutic agents employed. The pharmacology section discusses aspirin to zinc sulfate as related to ocular therapy quite adequately.