

REVIEWS

Antibiotic and Chemotherapy. By MARY BARBER and LAWRENCE P. GARROD. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1963. 366 pp. 14 × 22 cm. Price \$8.

This small book tackles the enormous subject of antibiotic and other forms of chemotherapy. The result is most pleasing and useful. By limiting discussion primarily to antibiotics and by dealing principally with bacterial infections, the authors have admirably achieved their objective. Authors of less definitive authority in their professional fields or with less literary ability could not have treated this complex subject so concisely without sacrificing clarity.

Part I, after an informative capsule appraisal and review of the historical development of chemotherapy (Chapter 1), deals with the fundamental aspects, namely, microbiology, chemistry, and pharmacology, of the sulfonamides and the antibiotics. Separate chapters are devoted to the sulfonamides and to each major antibiotic or group of antibiotics. Part I concludes with an excellent brief review of "Drug Resistance."

Clinical orientation is dominant in Part II which opens with a thoughtful presentation of "General Principles of Treatment" (Chapter 16). The terminal chapter (Chapter 27), "Laboratory Control," stresses an all too often ignored principle of antibiotic therapy, namely, "chemotherapy without bacteriology is guesswork," and concludes with a valuable appraisal of the methods of testing applicable under different circumstances. The intervening chapters (17 to 26) deal with use of antibiotics in infections of different organ or tissue systems, e.g., air passages; urinary tract; alimentary tract; skin, soft tissue, and bones; eye; etc. Separate chapters are devoted to septicemia and endocarditis, bacterial meningitis, obstetrics, tuberculosis, and venereal diseases.

The numerous tables and charts are well organized and are useful. Citation of key references also is helpful.

The book should prove very valuable to the pharmacist, the nurse, the clinical laboratory technician, and to the busy physician who desires a concise, authoritative, and definitive review of antibiotic therapy.

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Practical Optical Crystallography. By N. H. HARTSHORNE and A. STUART. American Elsevier Publishing Co., Inc., 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York 17, N. Y., 1964. 326 pp. Price \$6.50.

One of the most extraordinarily useful tools to the pharmaceutical scientist is the polarizing micro-

scope. For the solution of a very wide range of problems, it is limited only by the training and the vision (both types) of the operator. But while the method potential is great, the supply of well-trained microscopists is short. Only a few universities offer formal work in the field, and consequently many would-be microscopists are self-taught. The appearance of "Practical Optical Crystallography" is therefore welcome.

Several books on or covering the theory of optical crystallography are available, including a more comprehensive work by the same authors—"Crystals and the Polarizing Microscope." But the present book, true to its title, affords almost for the first time a very practical approach. It will serve very well as a text and laboratory guide for a one semester course as well as a good "on-the-job" training manual. It tells the beginner, for instance, how to begin. Numerous practical illustrations are offered on just how one goes about collecting and using data.

Although the book follows the practical approach throughout, sufficient theory is presented to satisfy most users. Sections are included on optics and interference phenomena, and a very good introduction to crystal morphology as well as optical properties of crystals is given.

In the pharmaceutical field, this book will be most useful to students and to serious workers in the areas of pharmaceutical development, analytical chemistry, and physical chemistry.

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Clinical Toxicology. 4th ed. By C. H. THIENES and T. J. HALEY. Lea & Febiger, 600 S. Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106, 1964. 661 pp. 13.5 × 20 cm. Price \$9.50.

The fourth edition of this text has been prepared to incorporate current toxicology information. This includes a new chapter on anticonvulsants, progress in microtoxicology, new information on chemical identification of poisons in tissue and body fluids, and revised text in other areas. The book is designed to serve as a textbook as well as a reference for the practitioner and others actively involved in the treatment of poisoning and identification of the toxic agent.

Sections I-VIII, devoted to symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment, present the poisons grouped according to their major toxic action. The chemicals are also listed in other sections when appropriate, i.e., when a particular item elicits more than one toxic action. Section IX outlines exact procedures for chemical identification of poisons. The text is supplemented with tables, illustrations, and reagent formulas to facilitate qualitative and quantitative analyses.