

REVIEWS

Screening Methods in Pharmacology. By ROBERT A. TURNER. Academic Press Inc., 111 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y., 1965. xv + 332 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$12.

This book consists of approximately 150 basic drug evaluation procedures whose biological and statistical methodologies have been concisely adapted from 265 references. In the introduction the author aptly points out that the success of any screening system is limited only by the ingenuity of the investigator who must select the battery of tests best suited for what he is attempting to accomplish. After a brief review of the biochemistry of the nervous system, which is necessary because of the neuropharmacologic nature of many of the techniques, the various kinds of screening tests and the organization of the "profile" into behavioral, neurological, and autonomic divisions are described in detail. The biological design, technological background, and statistical evaluation then follow for each of the major screening tests.

Aside from the use of *sympatholytic* when *adrenolytic* or *adrenergic blocking agent* is meant and the infrequent employment of British Pharmacopoeial terminology, *i.e.*, pethidine, the book is lucid and well written. Students of fetal pharmacology, however, will be disappointed in the meager information offered in the final chapter (46) dealing with teratogenic agents, for only one procedure utilizing the hen's egg for the detection of thalidomide malformations is described. Compared to Nodine and Siegler's "Animal and Clinical Techniques in Drug Evaluation," this text has the advantage of literary homogeneity which is difficult to attain in a collaborative book such as the former. As a ready source of information for student and researcher in advanced pharmacology and as a stimulus for the creation of better screening techniques, the reviewer recommends this book.

Reviewed by David E. Mann, Jr.
School of Pharmacy
Temple University
Philadelphia, Pa.

Teratology: Principles and Techniques. By JAMES G. WILSON and JOSEPH WARKANY. The University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill., 60637, 1965. viii + 279 pp. 17.5 × 24.5 cm. Price \$5.50.

This book is a collection of lectures and demonstrations presented at the First Workshop in Teratology held February 2-8, 1964, at the College of Medicine of the University of Florida, under the sponsorship of the Coggeshall Commission of Drug Safety. The purpose of the workshop was to present, by informal lectures and demonstrations, the history, rationale, and techniques of teratology based upon the accumulative experience of 11 well-known teratologists.

The lectures include a variety of important principles of teratology including the development of

experimental teratology and the roles played by genetic, intrinsic, environmental, nutritional, and immunological factors, as well as the teratogenic effects of chemicals. The demonstrations include techniques of histologic and gross examination, use of strain differences, maintenance of animal colonies, biochemical techniques, dose-response relationships, screening, and other special techniques. The material presented provides toxicologists with a background for designing experimental procedures most appropriate for evaluating the safety of drugs for use in women of childbearing ages.

The major conclusion that can be obtained from this compendium is that there is no simple means of evaluating the safety of drugs for use in pregnancy. The lecturers did not attempt to recommend tests that would provide a demonstration of safety. The usefulness of the lectures and demonstrations lies in the presentation of techniques, pitfalls, and principles (with many references) whereby the interested scientist can devise appropriate experiments for his purposes.

This book is useful as a guide but should not be construed to be a setting forth of standard procedures to be followed arbitrarily in anticipation that the safety of all drugs will be demonstrated by these techniques.

Reviewed by Harold M. Peck
Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research
West Point, Pa.

NOTICES

American Drug Index 1965. By C. O. WILSON and T. E. JONES. J. B. Lippincott Co., East Washington Sq., Philadelphia, Pa. 19105. 1965. x + 761 pp. 14 × 20.5 cm. Price \$6.75.

Drugs and Solutions: A Programmed Introduction for Nurses. By C. B. KEANE and S. M. FLETCHER. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1965. xi + 196 pp. 13 × 18 cm. Price \$2.75. Paperbound.

Basic Pharmacology for Nurses. 3rd ed. By JESSIE E. SQUIRE. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, Mo., 1965. 315 pp. 18 × 26.5 cm.

Sauerstoff-Verbindungen I. Teil 3. Edited by G. DITTUS, H. KROPER, and H. MEERWEIN. Band VI/3, Methoden Der Organischen Chemie (HOUBEN-WEYL). Georg Thieme, Postfach 732, Herdweg 63, 7000 Stuttgart 1, Germany, 1965. xlvii + 832 pp. 17.5 × 26 cm. Price DM 212 (Subskriptionspreis DM 190,80).