

REVIEWS

Pharmacognosy. 5th rev. ed. By E. P. CLAUS and V. E. TYLER, JR. Lea & Febiger, 600 Washington Sq., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106. 1965. 572 pp. 16 × 26 cm. Price \$15.00

The fifth edition is a rather extensively revised text. It has been brought up to date to conform with U.S.P. XVII and N.F. XII. The introductory material has been rewritten in many of the chapters, and the content in all chapters is in accordance with present day concepts. A major innovation has been the addition throughout the text of considerable information on the recent concepts of biosynthesis of many of the major plant constituents.

The book has retained the material of value for the microscopic study of powdered drugs and thus can serve as a text for this purpose. The authors did a good job of condensing a great amount of knowledge of poisonous fungi as well as higher plants into a new chapter on this subject.

A major asset of the book is the extensive number of references cited throughout the text. Thus the text can well serve as an excellent reference book, although a number of the obsolete drugs had to be dropped to conserve space. The authors stated the reader could refer to earlier editions if he wished specific information about such drugs.

The keyword to this fine text is versatility. It is a book that is suitable for many teaching purposes. The authors have a keen insight into the modern development of pharmacognosy and have written a text which meets the needs accordingly.

Reviewed by Jack L. Beal
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Vitamin Assay: Tested Methods. By ROLF STROHECKER and HEINZ M. HENNING. Translated from the German by D. D. LIBMAN. Verlag Chemie, P.O. Box 129/149, Weinheim, Germany, 1965. 360 pp. 17 × 24 cm. Price \$12.

This handsome book of 360 pages covers the great majority of useful chemical and microbiological vitamin assay methods published in recent years. The authors stress the fact that they have selected only methods which they have found workable for routine assays, as well as for research purposes. From experience in our own laboratories, the reviewer can concur with this statement.

The methods quoted present a wealth of up-to-date procedures, sufficiently explicit to permit application to the reader's particular problem. At the same time, critical points and pitfalls are evaluated including detailed instructions for carrying out the procedure. Frequently the chemical

reaction involved is outlined, as well as the preparation of the necessary reagents. In cases where separation steps are needed prior to the assay, the procedures are described in detail, particularly with respect to chromatography.

The usefulness of the text is enhanced by numerous illustrations and color photographs. Those depicting colored thin-layer chromatograms are particularly striking. The English translation by D. D. Libman is distinguished by clarity, although some of the abbreviations (e.g., G.R. = reagent grade) may not be readily familiar to the American reader. References to the literature are conveniently quoted in footnotes. An appendix lists the composition of microbiological test media in handy table form and is followed by a step-by-step description of the solutions required. This book should prove very useful for laboratories performing vitamin assays.

Reviewed by Ernest G. Wollish
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NOTICES

Structure and Function in Biological Membranes. Vol. II. By J. LEE KAVANAU. Holden-Day, Inc., 728 Montgomery St., San Francisco, California, 1965. 437 pp. Price \$14.75. Review of Vol. I, see *J. Pharm. Sci.*, **54**, 1227(1965).

British Medical Bulletin. Recent Research in Molecular Biology. Vol. 21, No. 3, September 1965. Published by the Medical Department, The British Council, 65 Davies St., London, W.1, England. 22 × 28 cm. Price \$5.00. Paperbound.

Science & Practice in Anesthesia. Edited by JAMES E. ECKENHOFF. J. B. Lippincott Co., E. Washington Sq., Philadelphia, Pa. 19105, 1965. 160 pp. 15.5 × 24 cm. Price \$7.00.

1966 Pharmacy State Board Questions and Answers. By RALPH J. MILL. Clark & Wilson Co., Box 3, General Post Office, Detroit, Mich. 48232, 1965. 21 × 28 cm. Price \$3.00. Paperbound.

Medical Plant Alkaloids. An Introduction for Pharmacy Students. 2nd ed. By STEPHEN K. SIM. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1965. xiii + 181 pp. 17.5 × 24 cm. Paperbound.

Methods of Biochemical Analysis. Vol. 13. Edited by DAVID GLICK. Interscience Publishers, a div. of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York 16, N. Y., 1965. ix + 488 pp. 15.5 × 23 cm. Price \$14.50.