

REVIEWS

Methods in Drug Evaluation. Proceedings of the International Symposium on Methods in Drug Evaluation, Milan, Italy, September, 1965. Edited by P. MANTEGAZZA and F. PICCININI. North-Holland Publishing Co., Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1966. xii + 580 pp. 16 × 23 cm. Price \$16.80.

A number of books discussing the area of drug evaluation have recently been published. These fulfill a need in pharmacology that has been long standing. This newest book has as its stated purpose a critical evaluation of proposed testing methods, not just a long list of literature quotations. This would allow the scientist to choose the method best suited to his requirements. The volume is based upon papers presented at the International Conference on Methods in Drug Evaluation and this may contribute to some of its faults. The book does not have the consistency of structure between chapters that should be present. Many of the chapters (i.e. cardiac glycosides, FFA, anti-inflammatory drugs, etc.) are excellent with the required depth and breadth necessary for accurate reader evaluation, but in contrast other chapters do not fulfill the aims of the book in that they only discuss a limited number of methods that are used by that particular author. This could mislead the fledgling scientist who desires a critical discussion of a particular area in pharmacology. The book does not discuss all areas of pharmacology, although there has been an attempt to include areas of recent interest. It discusses new areas such as radioprotectives, calcitonin, etc., but neglects anticholinergics, antihistamines, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, etc. The excellence of certain of its chapters, when compared to other published works, suggests the book's usefulness to a school or industrial library, but its partially restricted scope limits its place in the library of the individual scientist.

Reviewed by W. J. Kinnard, Jr.
University of Pittsburgh
School of Pharmacy
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Textbook of Biochemistry. 9th ed. By BENJAMIN HARROW and ABRAHAM MAZUR. W. B. Saunders Co., West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa., 19105, 1966. ix + 648 pp. 17 × 25.5 cm. Price \$9.

This new edition of the *Textbook of Biochemistry*, like previous editions, is designed for introductory courses in biochemistry. It contains a clear and precise presentation of biochemistry as it exists today coupled with a flexible course outline rendering it highly adaptable for students in a variety of disciplines. Particularly commendable is the desire of the authors to keep abreast of the rapidly changing developments in the science of biochemistry.

Biochemistry developed first as an outgrowth of organic chemistry, gradually incorporated certain

principles of physical chemistry, and, more recently, began to develop unifying concepts of its own. These concepts have emerged from the application of theories and techniques of biology, chemistry, and physics to the study of living systems. This 9th edition incorporates recent significant advances in biochemical thought with an excellent fundamental presentation of biochemically important compounds and their reactions. The reader is provided early in the text with a review of elementary chemical principles as they apply to biochemically significant compounds; these may be considered the unifying concepts of biochemistry. This presentation is followed by an introduction to several more specialized areas of biochemistry and shows certain relationships that exist between chemical structures, their reactivities, and their biological functions. Some of the newer concepts which have resulted in the modification of portions of this edition are the recent elucidation of the structure of cellular macromolecules, proteins, and nucleic acids; newly proposed mechanisms for the regulation of the synthesis of vital cellular compounds; and biochemical genetics.

This well-illustrated, well-documented textbook should provide the student with an excellent introduction to the science of biochemistry. For scientists in allied fields, it should serve as a useful basic reference.

Reviewed by Carolyn Damon
Drug Standards Laboratory
A.Ph.A. Foundation
Washington, D. C.

Organic Chemistry. By L. O. SMITH and S. J. CRISTOL. Reinhold Publishing Corp., 430 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. 10022, 1966. xv + 966 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$12.50.

Professor Smith, of Valparaiso University, and Professor Cristol of the University of Colorado, both teachers of chemistry, have prepared a text especially for a full-year organic chemistry course. Their organization differs from that of most other texts on the subject. Traditionally the material is organized by functional groups; some of the more recent books are based on reaction types and mechanisms. In this text, the authors have combined what they felt were the best features of both presentations. The book is divided into five major sections, with the first devoted to introduction and a review of general principles. The second section covers constitution of compounds, nomenclature, fundamental chemical properties, classical methods for determining structure, and structure and physical properties. The third presents the theory and mechanisms of organic reactions. The fourth covers physical principles of measurement. The fifth section provides topics of special interest from which the teacher may select those of pertinence to his courses. Each chapter is followed by study questions and problems.