

*Specifications for the Quality Control of Pharmaceutical Preparations.* Second Edition of the International Pharmacopoeia. World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 1967. xxxv + 906 pp. 16 × 24.5 cm. Price \$18.00.

This second edition of the International Pharmacopoeia (IP) is the result of collaboration between members of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on the IP and Pharmaceutical Preparations and many specialists from various countries. The Pharmacopoeia has no legal status, but is presented as a reference and to provide a similar basis on which any country may base its own specifications. Material included in this edition is based largely on specifications available for publication in national compendia or similar volumes. The first edition of the International Pharmacopoeia was completed with a Supplement in 1959. Thus, extensive revision was needed to utilize developments in the field which have occurred in the 8-year period since publication of the first edition.

Monographs for 162 items have been added, while 114 monographs have been deleted. Among the new additions are many of the semisynthetic penicillins and their dosage forms, thiazide diuretics, antimetotics, and steroids. For the first time, several radioactive preparations are covered by monographs, and an appendix has been added on the techniques for handling radioactive pharmaceuticals. Other chapters added on new analytical methods include determination of IR spectra, polarography, chromatography, nonaqueous titration, and oxygen flask combustion. The organization of this Pharmacopoeia is similar to that of the two U. S. compendia. The monographs are arranged alphabetically by name of the basic drug. The appendices of the IP include information comparable to that contained in the general tests, general information, and reagents sections of the NF and USP.

It is the hope of those presenting this second edition that "... this new volume will go even further than its predecessor towards ensuring the better control of pharmaceutical preparations everywhere and thus protecting the health of the public throughout the world."

Staff review

*Handbook of Chemistry.* Rev. 10th ed. Compiled and edited by NORBERT A. LANGE. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 330 W. 42nd St., New York, NY 10036, 1967. xiv + 2001 pp. 13.5 × 20.5 cm. Price \$12.00.

This standard reference has been revised to keep current with recent changes in chemical concepts and technology, especially the change in atomic weight calculations necessitated by the change to carbon-12. Formula weights, equivalent weights of ceramic materials, the factors for gravimetric and volumetric analysis, and other numerical values have been recomputed to conform to the latest International Atomic Weights now based on carbon-12 equal to exactly 12. With this edition, some new material has also been added: (a) fundamental physical constants, as recommended by the Committee of Fundamental Constants of

the NAS-NRC, (b) International System of Units and Conversion Factors, accepted in 1960 as the preferred system of units and adopted also by the NBS, (c) dissociation constants of water, and (d) prefixes for naming multiples and submultiples of units. Sections which have been up-dated include those on modern concepts of matter, effective radii of atoms and ions, ionization potentials of elements, names and formulas of organic radicals, recommended dietary allowances, and fluorescent indicators.

The handbook size is retained by the use of small but very readable type and the use of light-weight paper. This edition once again has been ably edited by Dr. Lange.

Staff review

## NOTICES

*Handbuch der Pflanzenphysiologie [Encyclopedia of Plant Physiology].* Vol. XVIII: Sexuality, Reproduction, Alteration of Generations. Edited by W. RUHLAND. Springer-Verlag, Heidelbergberger Platz 3, 1 Berlin 31 (Wilmersdorf), West Germany, 1967. xvii + 874 pp. 17 × 25.5 cm. Price: DM 348.--; US \$87.00. Subscription DM 278,40; US \$69.60.

*Industrielle Mikrobiologie.* By HANS-JURGEN REHM. Springer-Verlag, Heidelbergberger Platz 3, 1 Berlin 31 (Wilmersdorf), West Germany, 1967. xii + 643 pp. 17.5 × 25 cm. Price: DM 138.--; US \$34.50.

*Psychological Time in Health and Disease.* By JOHN COHEN. Charles C Thomas, 301-327 Lawrence Ave. E., Springfield, Ill., 1967. xv + 103 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$6.50.

*Precis de Matière Medicale [Summary of Materia Medica].* Vol. II. Pharmacognosie Speciale Spermaphytes (suite): Angiospermes Monocotyledones-Dicotyledones, Apetales et Dialypetales. By R. R. PARIS and H. MOYSE. Masson & Cie, Editeurs, Libraires de l'Académie de Médecine, 120 Blvd. Saint-Germain, Paris-VIe, France, 1967. viii + 512 pp. Price 60 F. Cartonne toile, demi-souple.

*Química Farmaceutica.* Quintino Mingoia. Edited by the Sao Paulo University, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1967. 787 pp. 16.5 × 23 cm.

*The Human Adrenal Cortex: Its Function Throughout Life.* Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 27. Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and R. PORTER. Little, Brown and Co., 34 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02106, 1967. 146 pp. 12 × 18.5 cm. Price \$3.50.

*Antilymphocytic Serum.* Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 29. Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and M. O'CONNOR. Little, Brown and Co., 34 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02106, 1967. x + 165 pp. 12 × 18.5 cm. Price \$4.25.