

utility would be in the former category, especially in a graduate course in alkaloids.

The material covered is thorough and the author's viewpoint regarding the unbalanced progress in the study of alkaloid biochemistry is heartily supported by the reviewer, *i.e.*, quite a bit is known about alkaloid biosynthesis but very little is known about function or degradative pathways. For example, the author cites the work of Fairbairn, who showed that the morphine alkaloids are not end products of metabolism but appear to be actively turned over at a rapid rate. Similar studies of this type are sadly lacking and much more work is needed in this area. It may well be that alkaloids are active metabolites within plants.

In any book there is a certain lag period between the literature survey, writing, and official publication. The lag period works against areas of research which are making active progress. A specific example of material which has been greatly extended since publication of the book is the work on the biosynthesis of indole alkaloids. This problem has now been pretty well cleared up and a monoterpenoid precursor is well established for the C₉ or C₁₀ unit involved. This is not a criticism of the author but is cited to point out some problems even with monographs of this type. Indeed, overall I believe the book to be quite up to date.

In summary, the book is clearly written, well organized, and readable. The major alkaloids are covered according to structural types and their biochemistry discussed. I would recommend its use in courses of natural products and especially in courses emphasizing alkaloids. It is a welcome addition to the library of books dealing with natural products.

Reviewed by John Tashiro
College of Pharmacy
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881 ■

NOTICES

Chemical and Botanical Guide to Lichen Products. Edited by CHICITA F. CULBERSON. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1969. xi + 628 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. Price \$12.50.

II. *Nachtrags- und Ergänzungsband Gehes Codex.* Edited by FELIX DIEPENBROCK. Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft MbH., Stuttgart, Germany, 1969. 538 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. Price DM 85.-. (German)

Drugs in Current Use and New Drugs. Edited by WALTER MODELL. Springer Publishing Co., Inc., 200 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10003, 1970. v + 201 pp. 14 × 21 cm. Price \$3.25.

Handbook of Experimental Pharmacology: Diuretica. Springer-Verlag, 1 Berlin 33, Heidelberger Plaza, Berlin-West, 1969. xviii + 764 pp. 17 × 25.5 cm. Price \$68.20. (German)

Circulatory and Respiratory Mass Transport. Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and JULIE KNIGHT. Little, Brown and Co., 34 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02106, 1969. x + 310 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$12.50.

The Lynn Index—A Bibliography of Phytochemistry. Edited by NORMAN R. FARNSWORTH, RALPH N. BLOMSTER, MAYNARD W. QUIMBY, and JOHN W. SCHERMERHORN. Norman R. Farnsworth Publisher, School of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, 1969. ix + 274 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price \$5.00.

Gas Chromatography in Biology and Medicine. A Ciba Foundation Symposium. Edited by ROTH PORTER, J & A. Churchill Ltd., 104 Gloucester Place, London, England, 1969. ix + 213 pp. 15 × 23.5 cm. Price 60s.

Molecular Biology Biochemistry and Biophysics. Edited by A. KLEINZELLER. Springer-Verlag, 175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010, 1969. xi + 166 pp. 16.5 × 25.5 cm. Price \$12.70.

Biochemical and Clinical Aspects of Alcohol Metabolism. Edited by VISHWANATH M. SARDESAL. Charles C Thomas, 301-327 East Lawrence Ave., Springfield, IL 62703, 1969. xiii + 319 pp. 18.2 × 26 cm. Price \$27.00.

Oral Hypoglycaemic Agents. Edited by G. D. CAMPBELL. Academic Press Inc., London Ltd. Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, London, England W1X 6BA, 1969. xviii + 482 pp. 15.7 × 23.7 cm. Price \$19.50.

Biochemistry of Mental Disorders: Report of a WHO Scientific Group. World Health Organization Technical Report Series, No. 427, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 1969. 40 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price 6/-, \$1.00, Sw. fr. 3.-, Paperbound. (English)

Principles for the Testing and Evaluation of Drugs for Carcinogenicity: Report of a WHO Scientific Group. World Health Organization Technical Report Series, No. 426, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 1969. 26 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price \$4-, \$0.60, Sw. fr. 2.-, Paperbound. (English)

Pharmaceutical Advertising, 1968 Revision. Offprint from the International Digest of Health Legislation, Geneva, 1968, Vol. 19, No. 3, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 1968. Local distributors: The American Public Health Association, Inc., 1740 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. 100 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price Sw. fr. 12.-, £1 4s. Od., \$4.00, Paperbound. (English)