

Clinical Pharmacology Scope, Organization, Training. By WHO Study Group, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 1970. i + 21 pp. 23.5 × 16 cm. Price: Annual Subscription \$16.00. (English)

The role of the clinical pharmacologist has recently received considerable attention. The World Health Organization Study Group on Clinical Pharmacology was convened to suggest means of eliminating the shortage of clinical pharmacologists, to demarcate the scope of clinical pharmacology, and to suggest ways for carrying out drug studies in all parts of the world in a scientific and coordinated manner.

The WHO report provides considerable information relative to clinical pharmacology and could be used as a focus for future discussions concerning this emerging discipline.

Staff Review ■

Modern Microcrystal Tests for Drugs, The Identification of Organic Compounds by Microcrystalloscopic Chemistry. By CHARLES W. FULTON. Wiley, New York, NY 10016, 1969. xviii + 466 pp. 17.5 × 26 cm. Price \$29.95.

Early in the book a table is presented to illustrate what the author considers the best aqueous tests with the 28 best reagents of the past for identifying alkaloids. The author has added also a number of nonalkaloidal but related substances to the list of materials tested and points out that although many of the tests are old, some of them being over a hundred years old, they yield reliable results with each of the 159 substances tested.

The author then discusses some new procedures that he has developed in microcrystal techniques. He describes tests conducted in acid media and procedures for testing the volatility of various chemical classes of substances. As a toxicologist he extends volatility tests to the detection of putrefactive bases. He also includes chromatography in general procedures for testing unknowns and indicates the usefulness of spectrophotometry.

In separate chapters, tests for barbiturates, sympathomimetics and central stimulants, phenothiazines, and steroids are presented. The author also discusses oxonium and carbonium compounds and iodine-iodide complexes; he describes general coverage tests, specific tests, and color tests.

The author explains crystal shapes in unique descriptive terms and he presents a system of classification of microcrystals. In the last of the 31 chapters are included 192 very good photomicrographs to illustrate his classification of crystal forms and also to illustrate important tests and significant reactions. Accompanying the photomicrographs are word descriptions of the crystal forms.

The index lists all of the substances for which tests are described in the book and includes a directory of essential information for each of these materials. It should be pointed out also that this book contains a very complete bibliography of literature in the form of appropriate references at the conclusion of each chapter.

The advent of many new, potent drugs has complicated the task of the toxicologist in using microcrystal tests for identification purposes. The author has included a number of new synthetic drugs in his tests and he points out that at least two or three different tests

must yield positive results with both the unknown and with known material in order to be sure of the unknown tested. This book is recommended as a useful reference to those working with microcrystal identification techniques.

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The Control of Chemotherapy. Edited by P. J. WATT, E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., London, England, 1970. i + 109 pp. 14 × 22 cm. Price \$6.25.

The papers in this volume were presented at a symposium held in March 1969, in the Wright-Fleming Institute, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, England. Starting from the premise that the treatment of infections with chemotherapeutic drugs can only be effective if the drug that is used is one to which the bacteria are sensitive and which can reach the site of infection, the symposium considered areas in which progress may be expected and areas in which inadequate techniques are still in use.

Staff Review ■

NOTICES

Chemical Control of Fibrinolysis-Thrombolysis. Edited by JOSEPH M. SCHOR. Wiley, 605 Third Ave., New York, NY 10016, 1970. xi + 328 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$17.95.

Programmed Thermodynamics. Vol. 1. By CHARLES E. WALES. McGraw-Hill, 330 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036, 1970. ix + 316 pp. 21 × 28 cm. Price \$5.95.

The Dictocrats. Our Unelected Rulers. By OMAR V. GARRISON. Specialty Features Syndicate, 17261 Reuford Ave., Detroit, MI 48219, 1970. xi + 333 pp. 10.5 × 18 cm. Price \$1.25.

Arzneimittelwirkungen. Ein Lehrbuch der Pharmakologie für Pharmazeuten, Chemiker und Biologen. By ERNST MUTSCHLER. Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft mbh Stuttgart, Germany, 1970. xvi + 477 pp. 17 × 24.5 cm. Price DM 48. (German)

Parathyroid Hormone, Thyrocalcitonin and Related Drugs. Section 51, Vol. 1, International Encyclopedia of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Edited by G. PETERS. Lausanne, Pergamon Press Ltd., Headington Hill Hall, Oxford, England, 1970. vii + 364 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$16.00.

Antibiotics in Clinical Practice. By HILLAS SMITH. Williams & Wilkins, 428 E. Preston St., Baltimore, MD 21202, 1969. ix + 346 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price \$11.75.