

Cytotoxic Drugs in the Treatment of Cancer. Edited by EVELYN BOESEN and WALTER DAVIS. Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, MD 21202, 1969. ix + 208 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price \$12.75.

This book is aimed primarily at the physician using cytotoxic agents to control cancer; it is intended to provide a basic understanding of the biochemistry of these agents. Alkylating agents, antimetabolites, plant products such as vincristine and vinblastine, and antibiotics are first discussed historically, and nucleic acid synthesis is reviewed. A chapter about structure-activity relations in the nitrogen mustard and antimetabolite classes of compounds describes briefly the rationale behind these drugs. This chapter is followed by a review of methods of testing for anticancer activity, and an excellent discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the methods in use today.

The remainder of the book is devoted to consideration of the clinical application of the various classes of cytotoxic agents and of individual compounds in each class. The alkylating agents (nitrogen mustards, dimethane-sulfonates, polyethyleneimines, and diepoxides) are extensively discussed, especially from a clinical standpoint. Throughout this discussion and others, rational drug therapy and the uses and limitations of cytotoxic agents are stressed. A brief chapter at the end of the book covers the use of drugs in conjunction with other methods of treatment and special techniques of administration.

This reviewer feels that the book has accomplished its stated objective of discussing the use and limitations of cytotoxic drug therapy, and that the book will be of value to the physician concerned with the clinical use of such agents. Although some areas of current research interest are omitted, notably the work being done on camptothecin, the book would be a valuable addition to a medically oriented library.

Reviewed by Gerald Carlson
Department of Medicinal Chemistry
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27514 ■

Neuropsychopharmacology and the Affective Disorders. By JOSEPH J. SCHILDKRAUT. Little, Brown and Co., Boston, MA 02106, 1970. xiv + 111 pp. 14.5 × 21.5 cm. Price \$10.50.

This book, the contents of which were originally published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, briefly reviews the biochemical pharmacology of psychoactive drugs. The emphasis is on the findings of the past decade concerning the changes in biogenic amine metabolism produced by various psychoactive drugs.

Staff Review ■

Nursing Home Standards: A Tragic Dilemma in American Health.

By JORDAN BRAVERMAN. American Pharmaceutical Association, Washington, DC 20037, 1970. i + 75 pp. 21.5 × 27.5 cm. Price \$2.50.

This study of nursing home standards examines both state and Federal regulations relative to the construction and operation of nursing homes. Also covered are the standards which American nursing homes must meet to qualify for certification and operation under Federal Medicare and state licensure programs as well as the apparent absence of even minimum standards in some areas. Summary tables of Federal and state standards are given.

Staff Review ■

NOTICES

Aktuelle Probleme der Toxikologie und Angrenzender Gebiete. (Festschrift Franz Borbely) Swiss Toxicological Information Center, Zurichbergstrasse 8, CH-8028 Zurich, Switzerland, 1970. xii + 249 pp. 17.5 × 24 cm. Price S.fr. 68. (English summaries)

Subsidia Pharmaceutica. Edited and published by Societe Suisse de Pharmacie Centre Scientifique, Zurich, Switzerland, 1969. 17.5 × 25 cm. Page 1447-1660. (German and French)

Introduction to the Chemistry of Enzyme Action. By A. WILLIAMS. Daniel Davey & Co., Inc., 964 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT 06105, 1970. viii + 130 pp. 14 × 22 cm. Price \$7.25.

Chemical Engineering Kinetics. 2nd edition. By J. M. SMITH. McGraw-Hill, 330 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036, 1970. xviii + 612 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$15.50.

Clinical Endocrinology. By R. HALL, J. ANDERSON, and G. A. SMART. Lippincott, East Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19105, 1969. vii + 418 pp. 19 × 25.5 cm. Price \$15.00.

Primer of Immunoelectrophoresis. By PIERRE C. ARQUEMBOURG, JOHN E. SALVAGGIO, and JOHN N. BICKERS. Ann Arbor-Humphrey Science Publishers, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, 1970. viii + 83 pp. 19 × 27 cm. Price \$8.25.

Cytologie Moleculaire Des Membranes Et Compartiments De La Cellule Animale. By A. POLICARD. Masson et Cie, Editeurs, 120 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris, France, 1970. vii + 122 pp. 16 × 24 cm. (French)