

REVIEWS

Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences. 14th Edition. Edited under the direction of ARTHUR OSOL and JOHN E. HOOVER. Mack Publishing Co., 20th and Northampton Streets, Easton, PA 18042, 1970. xii + 2074 pp. 21 × 29 cm. Price \$25.00.

This, the fourteenth edition, could be called a truly *enlightened* edition. It has been extensively revised to reflect progress in the profession of pharmacy; to this end, thirteen new chapters have been added. And, it is three pounds trimmer than the thirteenth edition!

In the section on Pharmaceutics, seven new chapters have been added including Computer Science, Solution and Phase Equilibria, Interfacial Phenomena, and Coarse Dispersion.

Drug nomenclature and structure-activity relationships are topics of two new chapters in the section on Pharmaceutical Chemistry. The last section, General Practice, has been enlarged, incorporating new material on drug incompatibilities, and a table on drug interactions has been added.

The use of lighter weight paper to reduce the weight of the new edition should be appreciated by all those who utilize this essential reference source on a regular basis.

For those readers who are not already familiar with "Remington," the volume is highly recommended as a comprehensive and accurate source of information on all facets of the pharmaceutical sciences and their application to the pharmacy practice. For those who are already familiar with previous editions, it will suffice to say that this latest compilation exceeds all past efforts; the extensive additions and revisions now make the preceding edition completely outdated.

Staff Review ■

Textbook of Pharmacognosy. Fifth Edition. By T. E. WALLIS. J. & A. Churchill Ltd., London, England, 1967. xi + 652 pp. 14.5 × 22 cm. Price \$9.00.

This is the most recent revision of a pharmacognosy textbook which has been used in England for approximately a quarter of a century. The author has retained both the monographic approach for presenting individual drugs of natural origin and the morphologic organization for grouping these drugs. Significant discussions of the chemical nature and properties of drug constituents are excluded from the textbook, and such information is stated to be outside the scope of the book.

The current emphasis in the United States on chemical and biochemical aspects of pharmacognosy essentially precludes consideration of using this book as a text. A further indication of the limited educational utility of the book in this country is obtained by noting that penicillin is the only antibiotic mentioned and that the coverage of this important natural product is restricted to early observations and developments.

The primary value of this book to persons in the United States will probably be as a reference for a few specialists who have a need for macro- and micromorphologic details and for information on cultivation and collection of plant drugs.

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Common Sense Lives Here: A Community Guide to Drug Abuse Action. National Coordinating Council on Drug Abuse Education and Information, Inc., 1211 Connecticut Ave., Washington, DC 20036, 1970. i + 104 pp. 21 × 21.5 cm. Price \$2.00.

This very attractively designed and illustrated booklet is aimed at community groups or individuals within a community who wish to become better informed about drug abuse action. It is intended to aid in the development of community programs to handle problems associated with drug abuse. A great deal of information is presented in a straight-forward, easily understandable form.

Staff Review ■

British Medical Bulletin: Drugs: Development and Use. Vol. 26, No. 3. Edited by D. R. LAURENCE. Medical Department, The British Council, 97 & 99 Park Street, London W1Y 4HQ, England, 1970. pp. 185-266. 22 × 28.5 cm. Price \$6.50.

This edition contains fifteen articles on selected aspects of drug development and drug use. Among the topics covered are how drugs have changed the general pattern of disease in the community, the value of animal studies in predicting the safety of drugs in man, and how to ensure that manufactured drugs are of known and consistent purity.

Staff Review ■

The Dating of Pharmaceuticals. Edited by JOHN J. WINDHEUSER and WILLIAM L. BLOCKSTEIN. Published by University Extension, University of Wisconsin, Health Sciences Unit, 432 North Lake Street, Madison, WI 53706, 1970. v + 166 pp. Price \$3.00.

This volume records the proceedings of a conference held October 12-15, 1969, which was sponsored by the University of Wisconsin's School of Pharmacy and University Extension. Included in the scope and objectives of the conference were the various aspects of drug dating, such as the criteria for setting expiration dates, methods which must be employed, and problems associated with the actual evaluation of the data. As evidenced by the thirteen individual papers which form the basis for this compilation, the objectives of the conference appear to have been fully met.

Some of the specific topics covered in the book are: chemical and physical parameters in stability testing; pharmaceutical dating as related to drug safety; effects of aging on therapeutic efficacy; kinetic approaches and limitations in predicting stability; importance of providing acceptable storage conditions on the drug label, as correlated with actual field conditions; factors involved in selecting and evaluating product preservatives; processing of stability data for FDA submission; impact of drug dating on marketing; some practical arguments against drug dating; current experiences with drug expiration dating; dating of antibiotics; and dating of pharmaceuticals in military procurement. Most of the more technical papers are supplemented with literature references.

The highlight of this book is a totally unrelated but thoroughly engrossing autobiographical presentation by Mr. Jonas Carol, who reviews his experiences at FDA in a paper entitled "Thirty-Nine Years of Change as Seen from Within FDA."

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