

REVIEWS

USAN 10 and the USP Dictionary of Drug Names. Published for the USAN Council by the U. S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc., Rockville, MD 20852, 1972. xii + 200 pp. 50 × 60 cm. Price \$15.00.

If the USP officials had resisted the temptation to project a bit of chauvinism in their new title to this publication, it would be hard to fault the new edition. Indeed, it has much more information, presented in a larger and more convenient page size, than ever before. Moreover, the thought and editorial care devoted to organizing and providing a considerable amount of diverse factual information in a concise yet readily comprehensible format are immediately apparent to the reader.

There also is every reason to expect that the accuracy of the technical content will merit the reader's confidence. Although we are aware that past USAN booklets published by the USPC have taken certain liberties with the "official" USAN lists as they have emanated from the USAN office, the extent of such editorial license in the present volume can only be assessed after considerable use and close review. Furthermore, the matter of compiling completely accurate information of this nature in a uniform format presents so many difficulties and complications that few if any other drug name dictionaries could even approach the apparent completeness and reliability of this current volume.

Moreover, there are other good features which add to the general usefulness of the volume. For example, we were pleased to note that a listing of pertinent Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Numbers is included for the first time, and that the Molecular Formula cross-listing to corresponding USAN names has been reinstated after a brief absence. This latter feature—which comprises Appendix II—provides the only means of locating a name for a compound when structure, formula, or composition is known rather than the reverse situation (*i.e.*, having a USAN or other coined drug name which one wishes to identify further).

So much for the generally fine content of the compilation. Let us now return to our opening comment concerning the overly prominent mention of one of the cosponsoring organizations in what is essentially the collaborative work of three organizations plus the Food and Drug Administration. The USAN program has indeed been a success. On its fifth anniversary we saluted the project with our editorial "Drug Names—A Semblance of Order" which appeared in the June 1966 issue of this Journal. Undoubtedly, much of the reason for the success has been due to two factors: (a) the submerging of individual sponsor identification in the interest of the unified joint effort and (b) the excellent administration and guidance of the operation by the USAN office staff.

The present volume's title obviously flies in the face of the unity theme. In searching for an explanation, we perused the Foreword to the book, and noted the proud boast that: "Unanimous approval of the new format was expressed by members of the USAN Council." However, we learned that, through a purported USPC oversight, the USAN Council members were neither informed nor polled concerning the change in title of the publication!

In the Foreword we also noted the justly deserved accolades accorded two of the charter members of the USAN Council. But what does the Foreword say about the real workhorse, Dr. Joseph B. Jerome, who has been the full-time USAN Council Secretary and director of the program since its inception in 1961? In a word, nothing. This silence is strange and puzzling. Unless it was a careless oversight on the part of the USP Executive Director, this silence reflects either a naive understanding of the complex USAN operation and the critical contribution made by the USAN Secretary and his staff or, even more disturbing, it suggests a purposeful tipping of the scales in some self-serving, status-seeking effort.

Staff Review ■

Pharmacognosy, 10th Edition. By G. E. TREASE and W. C. EVANS. Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1971. viii + 795 pp. 14.5 × 23 cm. Price \$23.00.

This pharmacognosy text is an improved revision of the previous edition. Although the format and intended readership have not been altered, certain chapters and parts have been rearranged to give better continuity in the presentation of the subjects.

The book is divided into nine parts with the parts concerning the introduction to pharmacognosy, plant morphology, plant taxonomy, plant cultivation, and microscopic techniques remaining essentially unchanged. The general discussions on phytochemistry are augmented by the addition of brief accounts on cytostatic agents, hallucinogens, allergens, and insecticides; the text is strengthened by the updated revision of the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites, the addition of a concise discussion on the difficult subject of chemotaxonomy, and the inclusion of the phytochemical Appendix listing selected *Chemical Abstracts* citations from January 1966 to December 1970.

The most objectionable portions of the text to this reviewer are the parts dealing with the individual drugs, which remained fundamentally descriptive. In areas of the world where crude drugs are still used extensively, this book can be a very valuable text. In the United States, however, the phytochemical and biological aspects of natural drugs are more important since our pharmaceutical practices involve minimal contact with crude drugs. The value of this text is, therefore, limited in the United States. It should be noted, however, that the authors have added some phytochemical data to discussions concerning certain of the plant families. Unfortunately, the authors did not attempt any correlation of chemical data with the biological effects of the drug plant constituents within these taxa. Another disturbing feature of this text is the need of the reader to make frequent cross-references between the families and drugs in Part 7 and the appropriate chapters in other parts of the book for chemical structure and other data, which renders the book less than ideal as a text for students.

Although this reviewer does not recommend this book as a student text, he does recommend its addition to college of pharmacy libraries.

Reviewed by Harry H. S. Fong
University of Illinois
at the Medical Center
Chicago, IL 60680 ■

Lectures on Biostatistics. An Introduction to Statistics with Applications in Biology and Medicine. By D. COLQUHOUN. Clarendon Press (Oxford University), 16-00 Pollitt Drive, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410, 1971. xviii + 425 pp. 15.5 × 23 cm. Price \$11.50 paperback; \$17.75 cloth bound.

"Most people need all the help they can get to prevent them making fools of themselves by claiming that their favorite theory is substantiated by observations which do nothing of the sort." The author's thesis is that most statistical treatment of experimental data is carried out with little thought, if any, being given to the validity of assumptions concerning the distribution of the observations which underlie parametric tests, and that a more "critical way of thinking about experimentation" is urgently needed when measuring "abstract quantities such as pain, intelligence and purity in heart."

The book has 14 chapters, two appendixes, and an eight-page index. Inside the back cover is a quick guide to significance tests applicable to various types of measurements, *e.g.*, classification, ranked, or numerical. An index of symbols in the beginning of the book covers four pages and is quite complete if somewhat lengthy. The author includes here notation not familiar to this reviewer, *e.g.*, script Roman letters for population and parameter estimates. On the other hand, the more familiar ϵ (epsilon), designating random error, and ρ (rho) for the population correlation coefficient are not used.

Chapters 1-4 covering basic statistical concepts, fundamental operations, and theoretical distributions are quite conventional.

Chapters 6-11 deal with significance tests, confidence limits, classification measurements, numerical and rank measurements, and