



Figure 2—Calibration of kinetic assay against USP method using solutions of nitroglycerin prepared from tablets (●) and powders (Δ).

present, since a solution of lactose in the absence of nitroglycerin produced a similar blank reading. This small blank reading was constant during the time of the kinetic assay and did not appear to be sensitive to changes in lactose concentrations. Sodium nitrate and nitrite did not give observable absorbances under similar experimental conditions.

The kinetic assay described here appears to be specially suitable for content determination of nitroglycerin in single tablets. The tablet can be placed directly in a 1-cm. UV cell and immediately assayed, with minimal requirements of manipulative steps, reagents, and instrumentation. Its simplicity, accuracy, and ready adaptability to automation strongly recommend the kinetic assay for use in the quality control and formulation research of nitroglycerin dosage forms.

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Received January 3, 1973.

Accepted for publication February 7, 1973.

Supported in part by General Research Support Grant FR5-501RR-05454-10 from the General Research Support Branch, Division of Research Facilities and Resources, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20014

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BOOKS

REVIEWS

Neuropharmacology and Behavior. By V. G. LONGO. W. H. Freeman, 660 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94104, 1972. 184 pp. 15 × 23.5 cm. Price \$6.95.

This relatively brief book does not attempt to cover all aspects of psychotropic drugs. The author, by drawing on his own research in this field, has written a very readable and interesting book covering the discovery, development, and use of psychotropic drugs. It is divided into four chapters—Antipsychotic Drugs, Antidepressant Drugs, Tranquilizing Drugs, and Hallucinogenic Drugs. For the reader interested in a historical perspective or a good overview, this book is recommended.

Staff Review ■

International Drug Monitoring: The Role of National Centres. World Health Organization Report Series. World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. (Available from American Public Health Association, 1015 18th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036), 1972. 47 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price \$1.00.

The development of systems for detecting adverse drug reactions has recently received increased attention. This report offers guide-

lines on the methodology and organization of national detection centers and the role of such national centers in an international reporting system. Since resources vary from country to country, a flexible approach is stressed. Recommendations concerning the principal activities of national drug monitoring centers are given as well as suggestions relative to the means for carrying out these activities.

Staff Review ■

Automation and Management in the Clinical Laboratory. Edited by GEORGE E. WESTLAKE and JAMES L. BENNINGTON. University Park Press, Chamber of Commerce Building, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1972. 274 pp. 13.5 × 20.5 cm. Price \$12.50.

Hospitals have been the subject recently of allegations of inefficiency and wastefulness. This book represents the updated and revised proceedings of a conference, held in May 1971, on effective management of clinical laboratories. This meeting attempted to apply industrial engineering techniques to the medical laboratory. Individuals from laboratory management and systems design discuss how the principles of industrial management, accounting, and engineering may be used to develop greater economy, reliability, accuracy, and speed of delivery in the clinical laboratory. Computerized laboratory systems are examined in terms of objectives,