

REVIEWS

The Bimolecular Lipid Membrane: A System. By MAHENDRA K. JAIN. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 450 W. 33rd St., New York, NY 10001, 1972. 464 pp. 14 × 23 cm. Price \$22.50.

This well-written and extensively referenced (more than 1300 references) book is highly recommended for all those interested in the molecular structure of biological membranes. Whereas biomembranes are characterized by a multiplicity of phenomena which have been described at the macroscopic as well as the microscopic level, there is in this multiplicity of phenomena an underlying set of physical and chemical principles. Jain has attempted (and succeeded admirably in this attempt) to present an exposition of these principles sufficient to provide a basis for understanding the specialized literature and complex phenomena associated with biomembranes.

Chapters 1-2 are introductory. Chapter 1 provides an excellent historical view of biomembranes and sets the framework for *in vitro* modeling. Chapter 2 reviews the surface chemistry of lipids. It is the only weak chapter in the book. Chapters 3-9 deal with the formation and stability of black lipid membranes (BLM), intrinsic properties of BLM, permeability characteristics and extrinsic properties of BLM, energy transduction in biological systems, excitability, and membrane hyperstructure and organization. Each of these chapters is well organized, sufficiently detailed, and extremely well referenced. The many tables (including summary tables) and illustrations aid the reader greatly.

One minor criticism of this reviewer is that not enough attention has been paid to comparing the BLM model system to other models such as monolayers and spherules.

In summary, the book is highly recommended to all investigators interested in the molecular structure of biomembranes and who are ready to accept the fact that even complex biological phenomena are based on physical and chemical principles.

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Evaluations of Drug Interactions—1973 (First Edition). Prepared by the Drug Interactions Project of the American Pharmaceutical Association with the assistance of the American Dental Association, the American Medical Association, the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Library of Medicine. Published by the American Pharmaceutical Association, 1973. xxxii + 358 pp. 15.5 × 23 cm. Price \$10.00.

This reference source utilizes a new approach for generating information on drug interactions. Previous publications in this field have relied heavily on personal assessments and/or gleaning the literature for reports and listing those found. In "Evaluations of Drug Interactions—1973," as the title suggests, assessments of drug interaction reports have been prepared, utilizing subpanels composed of individuals knowledgeable in a specific area of drug interactions. In addition to subpanels that reviewed the material for scientific content, subpanels composed of pharmacy and medical practitioners were also established to review the generated information from the standpoint of applicability to use by the practitioner in practice. About 200 persons contributed to the preparation of the first edition, with approximately 100 persons serving on scientific review subpanels, 25 on the practitioner review panel, and a number of special reviewers from cooperating agencies and pharmaceutical manufacturers' representatives.

The first edition includes 104 drug drug interaction monographs, 25 chapters of background information on drug interactions by pharmacological classes, a general chapter on the mechanisms and clinical implications of drug interactions, and Tables of Normal Values. The index identifies, by nonproprietary name, drugs to which a specific monograph is devoted and drugs which are discussed in monographs. Major trade names are included in the index, referenced to their appropriate nonproprietary name.

Monographs are divided into seven easily identifiable sections: Summary, Related Drugs, Pharmacological Effect and Mechanism, Evaluation of Clinical Data, Clinical Significance, Recommendations, and References. A listing of nonproprietary and major trade names of drugs mentioned in the monograph follows the references.

The four-colored sections (front matter is green; monographs, white; chapters, blue; and index, pink), the Table of Contents which has all monograph titles listed alphabetically by both the first drug name in the title and the second, and the extensive index promote ease of use. An additional feature is a reprint of the monograph section of the Table of Contents which is suitable for posting by the practitioner.

The acquisition of this new reference source on drug interactions should be considered by all health-care practitioners striving toward the goal of rational drug therapy.

Staff Review ■

NOTICES

The Botany and Chemistry of Hallucinogens. By R. E. SCHULTES, A. HOFMANN, and I. N. KUGELMASS. Charles C Thomas, 301-327 E. Lawrence Ave., Springfield, IL 62703, 1973. 267 pp. 16 × 23 cm. Price \$14.75.

Pharmacological and Chemical Synonyms. Compiled by E. E. J. MARLER. American Elsevier, 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, NY 10017, 1973. 456 pp. 16.7 × 24.5 cm. Price \$32.00.

Histamine and Antihistamines. Section 74, International Encyclopedia of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Edited by M. SCHACHTER. Pergamon Press, Inc., Maxwell House, Fairview Park, Elmsford, NY 10523, 1973. vii + 188 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$12.75.

Surface Chemistry and Dental Integuments. Edited by A. LASSLO and R. P. QUINTANA. Charles C Thomas, 301-327 E. Lawrence Ave., Springfield, IL 62703, 1973. xi + 445 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price \$19.75.

Methadone: Experiences and Issues. Edited by C. D. CHAMBERS and L. BRILL. Behavioral Publications, 2852 Broadway, New York, NY 10025, 1973. 411 pp. 14.5 × 21.5 cm. Price \$19.95.

Yearbook of Drug Abuse. Edited by L. BRILL and E. HARMS. Behavioral Publications, 2852 Broadway, New York, NY 10025, 1973. xii + 386 pp. 14.5 × 21.5 cm. Price \$19.95.

Major Modalities in the Treatment of Drug Abuse. Edited by L. BRILL and L. LEIBERMAN. Behavioral Publications, 2852 Broadway, New York, NY 10025, 1972. 313 pp. 14.5 × 21.5 cm. Price \$12.95.

Microenvironmental Aspects of Immunity. Edited by B. D. JANKOVIC and K. ISAKOVIC. Plenum, 227 W. 17th St., New York, NY 10011, 1973. xxxii + 726 pp. 17.5 × 26 cm. Price \$35.00.

Phytochemistry, Volume 1, The Process and Products of Photosynthesis. Edited by L. P. MILLER. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 450 W. 33rd St., New York, NY 10001, 1973. xiv + 410 pp. 16.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$25.50.