

REVIEWS

Experiments in the Pharmaceutical Biological Sciences. Edited by M. H. MALONE and J. L. McLAUGHLIN. Biological Sciences Section of the Conference of Teachers of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, 8121 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910, 1973. 128 pp. 15 × 22.5 cm. Price \$3.50.

This soft-back book, culminating from a program designed to strengthen the Biological Sciences Section of the Conference of Teachers of the AACP, is a compilation of effective laboratory exercises in microbiology and pharmacognosy (Part I) and pharmacology (Part II). Of the 29 experiments in Part I, four deal with microbiology and the remaining are pharmacognostic. The former include experiments with topical microbicides and the determination of sterility in pharmaceuticals. Most of the latter demonstrate techniques of synthesis, isolation, and identification of alkaloids, glycosides, and organic acids with one exercise consisting of eight sequential experiments in the phytochemical screening of a single extract. The authors note that the screening procedures described are readily adaptable to a variety of phytochemical experiments. One experiment, consisting of six diagnostic tests on urine specimens using commercially available diagnostic test kits, should provide the student with practical experience in the proper use of these agents.

There are 17 laboratory experiments in pharmacology which demonstrate general principles of drug action (absorption, metabolism, and excretion) as well as pharmacological actions of a broad spectrum of drugs. The laboratory sequence is culminated with the identification of an unknown drug by its pharmacological profile, a library exercise leading to the design of a laboratory experiment, and a case study on a hospitalized patient.

This book was designed to supplement laboratory manuals in these disciplines and to provide laboratory experiments which are relevant to the clinically oriented pharmacy curricula. The authors identify areas where deficiencies in practical laboratory experiments exist (vitamins, endocrine products, blood products, and the biologicals) and ask for experiments from those who have had successful exercises in these areas. Since the experiments were gleaned from teachers of biological sciences courses from several schools of pharmacy as representing their "best," this series of laboratory experiments should be considered as we attempt to revise our laboratory courses to meet the needs of the clinical practitioner of pharmacy.

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The Alkaloids, Volume 2, A Specialist Periodical Report. By J. E. SAXTON. Senior Reporter. The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London, W1V 0BN, England, 1972. 293 pp. 13.5 × 21.5 cm. Price £7.50.

This annual review is unquestionably the authoritative review source in this field and it is more complete than its relatives published by other sources. It is the opinion of this reviewer and his associates that this annual publication will be continued in its present form. The choice of authors for the various sections was appropriate, the format logical, and the text free of errors. The format and quality of the reports contained herein are in keeping with that established in Volume 1. It is an excellent volume and is a worthwhile addition to the library of every serious investigator.

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Cannabis and Its Derivatives. Edited by W. D. M. PATON and J. CROWN. Oxford University Press, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016, 1973. 198 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price \$16.00.

The book presents the proceedings of a May 1972 symposium arranged by the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence. Thirteen papers were given, covering primarily the chemistry, toxicology, and pharmacology of *Cannabis* and its derivatives. Several papers covered the physiological and psychological dependence in monkeys, chronic effects in man, and behavioral aspects.

Staff Review

USAN 10 and the USP Dictionary of Drug Names, 1973 Supplement. Published for the USAN Council by the United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc., Rockville, MD 20852, 1973. 74 pp. 21 × 28 cm. Price \$3.50.

This supplement contains approximately 4500 entries with about 100 representing new USAN names. The bulk of the supplement contains additional trade names and drug nomenclature from other countries, much of which would have been available for inclusion in USAN 10 itself and would have been more usable. Nevertheless, the USAN booklets represent a primary and valuable reference source for drug nomenclature, despite the disadvantage of having to look through two booklets.

Staff Review

The Ciba Collection of Medical Illustrations, Volume 6, Kidneys, Ureters, and Urinary Bladder. By FRANK H. NETTER, M.D. Ciba Pharmaceutical Co., Summit, N.J. 294 pp. 24 × 32 cm.

Volume 6 of this unique series by Dr. Frank Netter upholds the tradition of excellence so evident in the previous volumes. Forty-five specialists collaborated with Dr. Netter in producing this volume, but it is his ability to portray complex systems in easily understood illustrations that makes this book outstanding.

This volume has been divided into sections on anatomy, structure and embryology, renal physiology, diagnostic techniques, diseases of the kidney, the kidney and systemic diseases, diseases of the urinary system, congenital and hereditary disorders, and therapeutics. In addition to the discussion of these areas, the book contains 236 color illustrations which permit the reader to "see" the kidney and its functions. Although the illustrations are predominately Dr. Netter's paintings, light photomicrographs, electron photomicrographs, immunofluorescence photomicrographs, and X-rays have been used liberally to depict clinical situations.

This book would be a valuable adjunct to conventional pharmacology textbooks, but perhaps its greatest contribution will be to the individual who wishes to learn about the urinary system. The author and his collaborators have blended facts, discussion, and illustrations to yield a book that will command the attention of anyone interested enough in the subject to open the covers.

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