

reader's labors and those legal requirements, and to call to the reader's attention the burgeoning scientific literature pertaining to drug control." In all three areas, a wealth of facts and information is presented from the viewpoint that can only be gained by many years of practical experience.

In the first section of the book, the legal origins and applications relevant to regulatory drug analyses are presented and the purposes, functions, and responsibilities of regulatory drug analyses delineated. In the second section, the relevant scientific documents and literature resources, including domestic and foreign official regulatory methods, nonofficial compilations, reference treatises and texts, and publications are presented with a description of each. In the third section, the constructional features of methods suitable for, and useful in, regulatory drug analysis are described in detail. Although methods of analyses are in a continual state of flux as new procedures are developed, instrumentation becomes more sophisticated, or specifications more stringent, the basic principles remain unchanged. These are discussed relative both to monographs in existing pharmacopeias and to personal experiences of the author and associates in laboratory problems.

The book should be particularly valuable for those chemists who are fairly new to the area of regulatory drug analyses, and at the same time be of interest to experienced personnel in emphasizing the wide scope of their laboratory activities.

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**Amino-Acids, Peptides and Proteins. Volume 5.** R. C. SHEPPARD, Senior Reporter. The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London, W1V 0BN, England, 1974. 515 pp. 13 × 2.5 cm. Price £8.00.

It is indeed encouraging to see that the high standard which was established by Dr. Young has been faithfully maintained by Dr. Sheppard in presenting this fifth report in the series of the literature review in the field of amino acids, peptides, and proteins. The seven chapters of this volume provide a systematic and comprehensive review of papers appearing during 1972 and make an excellent addition to the earlier volumes.

The first four chapters are devoted to the detailed survey of the literature on amino acids, structural investigations of peptides and proteins, peptide synthesis, and peptides with structural features not typical of proteins. Of special interest is the subject matter of Chapter 5 concerned with chemical structure and biological activity as related to hormones and peptides, which have not been covered in this series since Volume 1. The detailed review of this

area therefore includes references from 1971 and earlier literature, as does the subject of Chapter 6 (Metal Derivatives of Amino Acids, Peptides, and Proteins) which covers papers appearing in 1971 and 1972.

The new and revised recommendations of the IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature are included in Chapter 7 and in addition the present volume also includes definitive rules for one-letter notation for amino acid sequences for the presentation of large amounts of data in a relatively compact form.

The researchers in the area of amino acids, peptides, and proteins will greatly benefit from the indispensable service provided by this volume, however, it is sincerely hoped that such surveys of the literature in future volumes will be relatively more expedient.

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**Pills, Profits, and Politics.** By MILTON SILVERMAN and PHILIP R. LEE. University of California Press, Berkeley, Calif., 1974. 421 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price \$10.95.

In this book, the authors offer a well-documented, readable account of the roles and forces affecting those involved in the drug distribution chain—from researcher to consumer. They detail the drug industry's research/promotion/pricing/profit policies, discuss physician prescribing habits, outline the history of federal legislation and regulation, and examine the interrelationships between legislators, manufacturers, prescribers, and dispensers. The continuing drug quality and generic *versus* brand name controversy is discussed, as is the discrepancy in drug pricing schedules between community pharmacies, hospitals, and nursing homes. Individual chapters are also devoted to adverse drug reactions and OTC product efficacy.

Of particular interest is the chapter entitled "Pharmacy: Revolution in the Making." Here the authors trace the role of the pharmacist and assert that "It is the pharmacist who can play a vital role in assisting physicians to prescribe rationally, who can help see to it that the right drug is ordered for the right patient, at the right time, in the right amounts, and with due consideration of costs, and that the patient knows how, when, and why to use both prescription and nonprescription products. It is the pharmacist who has been most highly trained as an expert on drug products, . . . and who can serve both physician and patient as a knowledgeable advisor. It is the pharmacist who can take a key part in preventing drug misuse, drug abuse, and irrational prescribing."

*Staff Review*