

REVIEWS

Toxicology Annual 1974. Edited by C. L. WINEK, and S. P. SHANOR. Dekker, 270 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016, 1975. 323 pp. 16.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$29.50.

This text is, as the editor states, "... not an annual review of topics in toxicology, but rather an annual publication of selected topics of current concern or interest in the broad field of toxicology." Many chapters, e.g., Toxicity Problems Related to Oral Ingestion of Prolonged Dosage Forms, Postmortem Drug Level Changes, Research in the Treatment of Poisoning, Testing to Predict Ocular Hazards of Household Chemicals, and The Current Status of Saccharin, fall within the above objective, and clinically useful data were found in all.

Narcotic Drug Dependence is another interesting chapter and documents various problems associated with narcotic use such as the overdose syndrome; gastrointestinal, liver, cardiac, and renal disorders; and immunological alterations. Treatment modalities are also discussed. One criticism is that in Table 2, which cites the incidence of problems in pregnant drug users (e.g., breech and premature deliveries and toxemia), information is presented for only three groups: heroin addicted, methadone withdrawal, and methadone maintenance. The reader would be able to evaluate the real significance of these narcotic-induced problems if an additional column listing the usual occurrence of these problems in pregnancy was included.

In Drug and Chemical Blood Levels, one table lists many commonly used drugs (e.g., acetaminophen, chlorthalidone, dextropropoxyphene, and methaqualone) and their therapeutic (or normal), toxic, and lethal blood levels. While only one or two of the levels are cited for some compounds, the therapeutic range is documented for most, and this in itself is a valuable offering.

Chapters that could have been deleted are This is Veterinary Toxicology (provides little significant information) and The Marijuana Dilemma: Implications of Recent Research Into the Pharmacokinetics, Psychomotor Effects, and Cardiovascular Actions of THC (more appropriate for a pharmacology text).

Overall, the *Toxicology Annual 1974* provides very worthy material in several specific areas of toxicology. Health professionals in related disciplines would also find this book informative.

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Terpenoids and Steroids, Vol. 5. Edited by K. H. OVERTON. Specialist Periodical Reports, The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN, England, 1975. 390 pp. 15 × 22 cm. Price \$57.75. (Orders should be addressed to: Special Issues Sales, American Chemical Society, 1155 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036)

This is the fifth volume on terpenoids and steroids in a valuable series first published 5 years ago. The aim of the various series of Specialist Periodical Reports is to provide systematic, comprehensive, and critical review coverage of progress in the major areas of chemical research. The various series, which now total 35, are being published annually or biennially on such topics as Foreign Compound Metabolism in Mammals; Biosynthesis; Alkaloids; Carbohydrate Chemistry; Amino-acids, Peptides and Proteins; Photochemistry; and Environmental Chemistry.

This volume does not contain a subject index but is organized in a systematic manner which facilitates finding any information being sought. The six pages in the Table of Contents outline this volume

in detail. The chapters are divided into many sections which are identified in boldface type in the text as well as in the Table of Contents. These sections are further divided into subsections. Chapter titles are found at the top of every second page of the text. There is an author index which includes 4000 names. It is helpful to those following the research of a given individual.

This review is illustrated with drawings of 1900 chemical structures. It is documented with 2200 references, most of which are listed at the bottom of the first page of each chapter where used.

Part I, which covers the terpenoids, is divided into chapters which include Monoterpenoids, Sesquiterpenoids, Diterpenoids, Triterpenoids, Carotenoids and Polyterpenoids, Biosynthesis of Terpenoids and Steroids, and Naturally Occurring Terpenoids whose Structures have been Determined by X-Ray Analysis. Of special interest is this last chapter which provides references covering the last decade to the determination of over 500 chemical structures by X-ray analysis.

Part II, which covers steroids, includes two large chapters and a compilation of over 100 reviews on steroid chemistry covering the period 1969-1974.

The chapter on steroid properties and reactions is divided into sections based upon more common functional groups, a section on Compounds of Nitrogen and Sulfur, and sections on such important subjects as Molecular Rearrangements, Functionalization at Non-activated Positions, Photochemical Reactions, and Structure, Stereochemistry, and Conformational Analysis.

The chapter on steroid synthesis is a 2-year review which is divided into the following sections: Total Synthesis, Halogeno-steroids, Oestrans, Androstanes, Pregnanes and Corticoids, Seco-steroids, Cholestane and Analogues, Steroidal Insect and Plant Hormones, Steroidal Alkaloids, Sapogenins, Cardenolides, and Bufadienolides.

It is a credit to the editor and 10 reporters preparing this volume that it is so well written and organized. Everyone interested in the chemistry of terpenoids and/or steroids should have access to this volume and others in the series. They would be a great time saver and a source of many new ideas. I highly recommend this series.

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APhA Drug Names. Edited by CHRISTINE L. BAILEY, JANET D. SHOFF, and MARGARET F. ROSE. American Pharmaceutical Association, 2215 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20037, 1976. 192 pp. 14 × 21.5 cm. Price \$5.00 (members, \$3.50).

"APhA Drug Names" is a cross-referenced alphabetical listing of approximately 7200 drug names, both proprietary (brand or trade) and nonproprietary (generic). It includes names official in USP XIX and NF XIV, as well as those names established by the United States Adopted Names Council and the Food and Drug Administration. It lists both current and discontinued trade names and names of some drugs not yet marketed. Compendial nonprescription drugs and compendial and extensively prescribed combinations also are listed.

Of special interest is the fact that the nonproprietary name entries also include the names of manufacturers that market the drugs by the nonproprietary names. There is a separate list of discontinued products based on manufacturer-supplied information, as well as a directory of manufacturers' names and addresses.

Pharmacists and other health professionals will find this book a valuable source of drug nomenclature information.

Staff Review