

REVIEWS

Introduction to Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms. By HOWARD C. ANSEL. Lea & Febiger, Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106, 1976. 415 pp. 18.5 × 26 cm. Price \$22.50.

In this second edition, the organization and content have been extensively revised. References have been updated and take into account the current literature. The purpose of the book still remains to present to "the beginning student introductory concepts of dosage form design, manufacture, and utilization" of drugs, with emphasis given to the drug entities listed in the official compendia. By selecting the route of administration as the framework, the author has succeeded admirably in meeting this purpose.

The content of the revised edition reflects accurately the changes in curricula taking place in schools of pharmacy and in the practice of pharmacy. It will enable the student to integrate easily basic scientific pharmaceutical concepts with current concepts in patient care, thus presenting a refreshing view in a basic pharmaceuticals textbook. The book's value is increased by the discussion of such topics as drug standards and good manufacturing practices and by the new appendix chapter which addresses information vital to the beginning pharmacy student.

While the author extends his appreciation to many who have cooperated in this effort, one strong point of the second edition, as of the first, is its uniformity of style.

This reviewer feels somewhat disappointed in the complete exclusion of a discussion of contact lens solutions, which probably differ in dosage form design and use sufficiently from ophthalmic solutions to deserve some recognition. Also somewhat disappointing is the all too brief discussion of radiopharmaceuticals. Nevertheless, it is easy to recommend adoption of this book by those responsible for teaching basic pharmaceuticals courses. Furthermore, the book can serve well as a reference source for those in industry and research.

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Dispensing of Medication. 8th Ed. Edited by JOHN E. HOOVER. Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA 18042, 1976. 654 pp. 18 × 26 cm.

This book represents a modern approach to the subject as evidenced by the omission of many chapters dealing solely with the compounding of medications on the industrial level or the type of material presented in "Preparations" courses. Most authors have presented information concerned not only with the fabrication of dosage forms but also with the anatomy and physiology of the body organ systems as well as drug absorption from the various sites. This approach is entirely in keeping with the announced intention of the editor to "aid the patient-oriented pharmacist."

Keeping this intent in mind while reading the text reveals a lapse from time to time. Thus, while an excellent review of bioavailability is presented, one wonders if the dispensing pharmacist who is deeply involved in patient care should expect to receive some direct pointers regarding bioequivalent evaluation of specific products. The chapter on dermatologicals could have presented a clearer description of the effect of ointment bases in percutaneous absorption and the extent that the clinical symptoms determine the selection of dosage form or base in the treatment of dermatologic conditions. One wonders if it is still necessary to belabor the "ideal monodisperse" suspension or to cover the subject of pills.

An excellent balanced approach makes the chapter on parenterals useful to both hospital and industrial pharmacists. If the pharmacist is to monitor parenteral therapy in a rational manner, as suggested by the authors, should not criteria for the use of intravenous administration be provided?

The last chapter, Compounding and Dispensing Information, is over 300 pages and contains a wealth of information on drug interactions and incompatibilities. Unfortunately, a portion of this chapter is not presented in a format that allows the reader to utilize this information to the

best advantage. The last 170 pages of this chapter, entitled Specific Compounding and Dispensing Information, is an extremely valuable tool. It presents physical-chemical properties of drugs and drug products by nonproprietary and/or trade names and gives data including incompatibilities, stability, choice of bases, information the pharmacist must consider when dispensing the drug, and information to be given the patient. This type of information should be at every pharmacist's fingertips.

This book represents a valuable addition to the library of the practicing pharmacist, especially one who is interested in ensuring that patients receive proper and optimal pharmaceutical care. The majority of it is well written, concise, and explicit while covering the necessary subjects and should serve the student well as a text.

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Pharmacognosy. 7th Ed. By VARRO E. TYLER, LYNN R. BRADY, and JAMES E. ROBBERS. Lea & Febiger, Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106, 1976. 537 pp. 18.5 × 26 cm. Price \$21.50.

This book is a revised and updated edition of the single standard textbook for pharmacognosy. It is the only reference suitable for general use by students in pharmacognosy in the United States. The unique position it holds attests to the usefulness of older editions over the past years but precludes comparisons with other books on the same subject.

Most of the book is unchanged from the last edition; new chapters mainly represent rearrangement of material (e.g., Steroids and Peptide Hormones) taken from other sections. Other chapters have been updated, but none is totally rewritten. The drugs included are divided into chapters based upon the chemical (e.g., volatile oils and alkaloids) or therapeutic category (e.g., antibiotics and immunizing agents) classifications. Three chapters at the end contain introductory information on subjects difficult to find in other pharmacy books: Allergens, Poisonous Plants, and Pesticides.

The book has been revised with the expectation of making it more applicable to the "patient-oriented pharmacist." This approach can be detected in the information given regarding cardiac glycosides, in the immunization schedule, and in the list of diseases caused by various microorganisms. This aspect of the revision could have been expanded, because the use given for colchicine is simply "suppressant for gout" and the only use listed for caffeine is "central stimulant," even though the caffeine-containing prescription specialties listed are all used as analgesics. A few misleading statements have remained such as ephedrine "depressing . . . cardiac muscle action" and dextrose as a "fluid . . . replenisher."

The book is recommended as a textbook for all undergraduate pharmacognosy students.

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Analytical Profiles of Drug Substances, Vol. 5. Edited by KLAUS FLOREY. Academic, 111 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003, 1976. xi + 560 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. Price \$22.50.

This is the fifth in a series of compilations under the sponsorship of the Pharmaceutical Analysis and Control Section of the APHA Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences. It is the intent of these volumes to make available in a single source important information about drug substances which is scattered through the scientific literature or which may be filed