Other criticisms include the placement of Chapter 16, "Non-Steroidal Antiinflammatory Agents." This chapter should logically precede and not succeed the other two chapters on nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories (Chapters 14 and 15).

In summary, "Inflammation and Antiinflammatories" is a well organized and well-written review on the current concepts of the field. It will prove a valuable resource to the laboratory investigator as well as to the clinician.

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Recent Advances in the Chemistry of β-Lactam Antibiotics. Edited by J. ELKS. The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V OBN, England. 1977. 313 pp. 14 × 21 cm. Price \$29.00.

This volume consists of 32 papers presented at a Chemical Society Symposium held in June 1976 in Cambridge, England. Included are two papers on the biosynthesis of β -lactams, nine papers dealing primarily with modification or incorporation of unique side chains on the penam or cephem nucleus, and 15 papers on the synthesis of the β -lactam ring systems or incorporation of substituents into the cephem or penam ring systems. While most papers in the last group deal with the synthesis of penicillins or cephalosporins, Ajay Bose discusses his general β -lactam synthesis. Also of special note are the papers outlining synthetic approaches to the biologically interesting 3-chloro and 3-hydroxy cephems.

The remaining six chapters include a paper on extraction of cephalosporins from fermentation broth, a chiroptical study of penicillinates, a study of the nonenzymatic hydrolysis of β -lactams, and a review by R. B. Woodward of the work at the Woodward Research Institute. Also included are one paper on the norcardicins, monocyclic β -lactams with antibacterial activity, and one paper covering clavulanic acid, a bicyclic β -lactam, which is a potent irreversible inhibitor of β -lactamase enzymes.

Although the prime emphasis of this volume is the chemistry of β -lactam antibiotics, nine chapters contain tables of antibacterial activity of various analogs. As with most symposium volumes, no subject or author indexes are included. With the exception of Woodward's article, which contains no references, the papers are for the most part adequately referenced (references into the early 1976 literature are included). As is expected in a symposium paper, some authors make liberal use of references to unpublished results.

This volume is a valuable updating of the voluminous literature on β -lactam antibiotic chemistry. It should prove to be a useful information source not only to individuals involved in antibiotic research but also to individuals with teaching responsibilities in this field.

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NOTICES

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