

Volume 5 covers a mixed group of drugs. Chapter 1 is about 40 percent of the book and includes natural and synthetic narcotics and narcotic antagonists. The balance of Volume 5, Chapter 2, discusses antipyretics, antiinflammatory and antihyperuricemic agents, local anesthetics, and antibiotics. Since these volumes are part of a continuing series, it would have seemed more appropriate to include antibiotics in a volume covering antiinfective and chemotherapeutic agents.

At first glance, from the authors' goals, the reader might expect a combination of an exhaustive treatise and laboratory manual for each subject. An examination of any volume will show that this was not necessary. The general format of each section is: (a) a general literature review including the chemistry and biochemical transformation of the drug class under discussion; (b) a discussion of derivatization, sensitivity, and quantitation; and (c) several specific examples. A limited number of actual procedures is found in the latter part of each chapter. All information is well referenced. Perhaps the best way to describe this series is to say that each chapter is a very extensive review article.

Unless an individual is an analytical laboratory director, there is little reason to purchase the entire set. On the other hand, individual volumes are highly recommended to scientists needing to be knowledgeable in the analysis of a specific drug group. The entire set should be purchased by libraries whose collections include books dealing with instrumental analysis.

*Reviewed by John H. Block
School of Pharmacy
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331*

Aromatic and Heteroaromatic Chemistry, Volume 6. A Review of the Literature Abstracted between 7/76 and 6/77. By H. SUSCHITZKY and O. METH-COHN. Chemical Society, Burlington House, London, W1V 0BN, England. 1978. 326 pp. 14 × 22 cm. Price \$47.50.

This latest volume in the series of Specialist Periodical Reports reviews the literature on aromatic and heteroaromatic chemistry abstracted between July 1976 and June 1977 and covered by Volumes 85 and 86 of *Chemical Abstracts*.

The two new senior reporters, Professors Suschitzky and Meth-Cohn, have partially reorganized the chapters of this volume in an attempt to reduce the cost and to aid the reader in locating particular topics quickly, in the absence of a subject index. The high cost and lack of a subject index were the only previous criticisms of this series. The reorganization was successful in both endeavors, although the cost of the book is still relatively high.

The senior reporters have retained all other aspects developed by their predecessors, Professors Bird and Cheeseman, and have maintained the high quality presentation of a large amount of factual information so valuable to the scientist interested in this area.

The liberal use of structures and reaction schemes and the practice of placing references as footnotes on the page cited have been retained and

maintain the excellent readability and continuity of the previous volumes.

The new chapter titles include: Three and Four-Membered Ring Systems; Five-Membered Ring Systems; Six-Membered Ring Systems; Six-Membered Heterocycles; Seven-Membered Ring Systems; Medium-Sized Rings and Macrocycles; and Electrophilic Substitution Reactions. Chapter titles retained include: Nucleophilic Substitution Reactions; Aromatic Substitution by Free Radicals, Carbenes, and Nitrenes; Porphyrins and Related Compounds; Naturally Occurring Aromatic Oxygen-Ring Compounds; and Other Naturally Occurring Aromatic Compounds. Not included, due to the illness of its reporter, was the new chapter entitled Six-Membered Homocycles. The volume has a complete author index containing over 4300 names, and the 11 chapters include over 2200 literature citations.

Like the previous volumes, this one provides a systematic, critical, in-depth account of the progress in aromatic and heteroaromatic chemistry.

*Reviewed by Edward F. LaSala
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Boston, MA 02115*

Analysis of Steroid Hormone Drugs. By S. GÖRÖG and GY. SZÁSZ. Akadémia Kiadó, Budapest, Hungary, and Elsevier Scientific Publishing Co., Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 1978. 426 pp. Price \$59.

Every scientist interested in the analysis of steroid pharmaceuticals should acquire this book. The literature on steroid analysis has become so extensive that many review articles have degenerated into mere taxonomy, like the biennial *Analytical Chemistry* reviews on drug analysis. In contrast, this book provides an informed and intelligent review of the subject. It is a volume one can read through as a text, browse in for intellectual stimulation, or use as a reference for a specific question.

Organization of the book could well serve as a paradigm for other monographs. The chapters are titled, "Fundamental Steroid Hormone Chemistry," "Brief Outline of the Therapeutic Use of Steroid Hormones," "Development of, and Current Trends in, Methods of Steroid Hormone Analysis," "Chromatography of Steroid Hormones," "Gas Chromatography of Steroid Hormones," "Functional Group Analysis," "Assay of Dosage Forms," and "Analysis of Raw Materials for the Semi-syntheses of Steroid Hormones." The author of each chapter or section is identified, and each chapter has references. There are author and subject indexes.

HPLC methods now are probably the most useful for assay of steroids and their pharmaceutical dosage forms. Discussion of this technique in the book is much shorter than for GC, which it has largely supplanted. Nevertheless, the text is oriented to chemical principles, so it is unlikely to be dated rapidly by the appearance of new technology.

*Reviewed by Lester Chafetz
Analytical Research
Warner-Lambert Company
Morris Plains, NJ 07950*