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Received February 5, 1979.

Accepted for publication June 1, 1979.

Presented in part at the Basic Pharmacetics Section, APhA Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, New York meeting, May 1977.

Supported in part by National Institutes of Health Grant GM 26551.

BOOKS

REVIEWS

Methods in Pharmacology, Vol. 4B, Renal Pharmacology. Edited by MANUEL MARTINEZ-MALDONADO. Plenum, 227 W. 17th St., New York, NY 10011. 1978. 403 pp. 15 × 25 cm. Price \$39.50.

This volume aptly fills a gap in the literature. Although the book was apparently intended for researchers in this area, each topic is treated such that even pharmacologists and physiologists not active in renal research can gain a better understanding of and appreciation for the technology discussed. In addition to the clear treatment of each topic, all chapters are well referenced. This book should be made available to all students of pharmacology, physiology, and medicine.

The first chapter deals with morphological methods for studying the kidney, including fixation methods, light microscopy, and EM procedures. The second and third chapters deal with renal dynamics, including clearance methods and intrarenal blood flow measurements. Chapter 4 deals with micropuncture techniques, while the fifth chapter is concerned with microanalytical methods for analyzing samples obtained by the methods discussed in the previous chapter.

In Chapter 6, methods measuring glomerular dynamics are described, and mathematical models of glomerular ultrafiltration are discussed.

Chapters 7 and 8 provide detailed descriptions of the apparatus used in microelectrode studies; Chapter 7 has to do with electrical potential measurement, and Chapter 8 concerns pH measurement. Chapter 9 is especially interesting, providing methods for dissection and perfusion of isolated tubules.

Chapters 10–12 deal with renal biochemistry: Na-K-ATPase, adenylate cyclase, and intermediary metabolism. The last three chapters describe the methodology used in studying isolated perfused kidney in the dog (*in vitro* and *in vivo*) and the rat (*in vitro*).

The effectiveness of the book would have been greatly enhanced by including with each chapter a brief description of several experiments using the methods described. Including exemplary experimental drug application protocols and some typical data obtained by the methods would have provided the pharmacologist reader with a much clearer understanding of how the method might be applied.

In addition, it would probably be helpful for many readers if the names and addresses of manufacturers of critical equipment and supplies had been provided with each chapter.

I have personally experienced a need for such information in my previous experience with other volumes of *Methods in Pharmacology*.

These two shortcomings are the only major problems I see in this volume, and I view it generally as a very informative and useful contribution to the scientific literature.

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Cocaine: 1977 National Institute on Drug Abuse (Research Monograph Series 13). Edited by R. C. PETERSON and R. C. STILLMAN. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Price \$3 (paper cover).

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) has been publishing monographs on specific substances of abuse. The monograph on cocaine follows a pattern similar to earlier monographs. There are 10 chapters by 13 authors with 350 references dating from 1884 to 1977. There is an adequate author and subject index.

The information in the book could be classified according to history, pharmacology and toxicology, abuse, use, behavioral aspects, and legal aspects.

This book and the others in the series are useful to anyone involved in the area of substance abuse. Their rather low price makes the entire series inviting.

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NOTICES

Disposition of Toxic Drugs and Chemicals in Man. Vol. 1. Centrally-Acting Drugs. By RANDALL C. BASELT. Biomedical Publications, P.O. Box 368, Canton, CT 06019. 1978. 306 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price \$22.50.

Handbook of Experimental Pharmacology, Vol. 51. Uric Acid. By WILLIAM N. KELLEY and IRWIN M. WEINER. Springer-Verlag New York Inc., 175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010. 1978. 639 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price \$159.50

IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Humans. Some N-Nitroso Compounds. (Vol. 17). International Agency for Research on Cancer, distributed by World Health Organization. 1978. 165 pp. 17 × 24 cm. Price \$25.00; 50 fr.

IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Humans. Vol. 18. Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Polybrominated Biphenyls. International Agency for Research on Cancer, distributed by World Health Organization. 1978. 140 pp. 18 × 24 cm. Price 20 fr.

The International Challenge of Drug Abuse: NIDA Research Monograph 19. By ROBERT C. PETERSEN. National Institute on Drug Abuse, Division of Research, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. 1978. 349 pp. 14 × 23 cm.

Methods in Cancer Research, Vol. XVII. Cancer Drug Development, Part B. Edited by VINCENT T. DeVITA, Jr., and HARRIS BUSCH. Academic, 111 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003. 1979. 356 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price \$37.00.