

REVIEWS

Index Nominum 1978, 9th Ed. The Swiss Pharmaceutical Society, 1977. xiv + 814 pp. 21 × 30 cm. Price \$88.00. Available from Drug Intelligence Publications, 1241 Broadway, Hamilton, IL 62341. (*Introduction in French, German, and English; text in French.*)

This edition of *Index Nominum* introduces a two-column format, allowing the incorporation of additional information while maintaining this reference as a single volume. As in the preceding edition, this volume uses a single alphabet to list International Nonproprietary Names (INN) and other generic names, trade names and manufacturers, chemical names and structures, pharmacopeial monographs on each drug, and main therapeutic uses. More than 3645 compounds and derivatives, including 270 new entries, are listed in this edition, along with more than 24,000 references. Several listings of derivatives were transferred to the entry of the parent substance, and numerous entries concerning obsolete or poorly defined substances were deleted.

Features retained from previous editions include the listing of monograph titles from internationally important pharmacopeias under "Monographie," the distinction of new listings by a point preceding the name or synonym, and the English translation of expressions used in the designations (which remain in French). The convenience of consulting only one cross-reference to find the main entry is continued in this edition. Cross-references to the main entry now include a dash instead of "voir." Several new signs and abbreviations were added.

Staff Review

Pharmacy in Health Care and Institutional Systems. Edited by PEDRO J. LECCA and C. PATRICK THARP. C. V. Mosby, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St. Louis, MO 63141. 1978. 275 pp. 18 × 25 cm. Price \$13.95

The purposes of this book are "to identify and examine the more important concerns being raised by the interaction between pharmacy practice and the health establishment, to provide an interdisciplinary base of understanding of health care and institutional systems, to anticipate the difficulties that lie ahead and to indicate the probable direction of future developments." These are broad and grandiose objectives for a book of readings, and the reader closes this book with the feeling that none of them has been achieved.

For example, there is no reference to or mention of physicians, nurses, dentists, podiatrists, or any other health professional. It is difficult to understand how the authors can "provide an interdisciplinary base of understanding of health care and institutional systems" when the roles and attitudes of other health professionals are not discussed. Moreover, there is little discussion of "future developments." In fact, the last section is titled, "Current Trends."

The book has four basic sections: Part One, "Considerations in Health Care and Institutional Systems"; Part Two, "The Health Care System"; Part Three, "Health Care Institutions"; and Part Four, "Current Trends." Each section is composed of three chapters; all chapters present extensive bibliographies for the interested reader. Dr. Lecca is the author of Chapter 1, "The Introduction," and Chapter 5, "Pharmacy in Community Health Planning." Dr. Tharp is the author of Chapter 9, "Pharmacy in Group Practice and Pharmacy Foundations."

The brief biographical sketches on the title page do not adequately indicate the extent of the authors' experience with health care and institutional systems. Dr. Lecca is presently the Assistant Commissioner of Interagency Affairs, New York City Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation. Dr. Tharp is the Director of Technical Services, Applied Technology Division of K. V. Pharmaceutical Co. A description of the authors' backgrounds in health care services is necessary for readers unacquainted with their work.

There are a number of basic flaws in the book. One is an overall lack of editorial supervision; pharmacy manpower is adequately addressed in Chapter 3, yet Chapters 2 and 4 contain information on this topic. The same problem occurs for skilled nursing facilities. They are discussed thoroughly in Chapter 7, yet Chapter 8 also discusses this area. Another problem is that information in many chapters is now outdated, such as

the extensive undiscussed tables on national health insurance proposals for 1974 in Chapter 2 and Pharmacy Foundations in Chapter 9. Furthermore, the connection between the content in Chapters 10 and 11 and institutional systems is unclear. The sequencing of chapters is also inappropriate: Chapter 4, "The Health Care System—An Overview," should be Chapter 1. Some chapters cover their intended objective in depth, others are incomplete; for example, Chapter 8 fails to discuss long-term care facilities, and Chapter 5 does not present a discussion on Area Health Educational Centers.

A few chapters stand on their own for providing good information and data on their respective subjects such as Chapter 2, "Cost Control"; Chapter 3, "Institutional Pharmacy Manpower"; Chapter 4, "An Overview of the Health Care System"; Chapter 7, "Institutional Service in Hospitals"; Chapter 10, "The Impact of Sociological Research"; and Chapter 11, "Planning Development and Evaluation of Continuing Education." Other chapters are incomplete such as Chapter 6, "Clinical Pharmacy in the Health Care System"; Chapter 8, "Nursing Home Pharmacy Services"; and Chapter 9, "Pharmacy in Group Practice and Pharmacy Foundations."

Because much of the information in this book is already outdated, it has little value other than as a historical reference. For someone interested in reviewing early national health insurance legislation and community health planning prior to 1977, Chapters 2 and 5 might be of interest. The value of this book to the experienced teacher and researcher in the social and administrative sciences is only temporary and may have passed. For anyone who scans *Current Contents* for social and behavioral sciences and *International Pharmacy Abstracts* and maintains a respectable reprint file, this book is not worth its price. It may have limited value as a reference source in an undergraduate pharmacy course on pharmacy and health care.

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Annual Reports in Medicinal Chemistry, Vol. 13. Edited by F. H. CLARKE. Academic Press, New York, N.Y. 1978. 337 pp.

Volume 13 of "Annual Reports in Medicinal Chemistry" continues the series tradition of updating various major research areas in medicinal chemistry. Also, several brief chapters highlight research trends in new areas of interest or in areas with which most medicinal chemists are less familiar.

Like previous volumes in this series, Volume 13 is divided into six sections: Central Nervous System Agents, Pharmacodynamic Agents, Chemotherapeutic Agents, Metabolic Diseases and Endocrine Function, Topics in Biology, and Topics in Chemistry. Each section is subdivided into five or six chapters of approximately 10 pages each. The section on Central Nervous System Agents contains the standard chapters on antidepressants, antipsychotic agents, narcotic analgesics, and anti-anxiety agents, the latter chapter being further subdivided into benzodiazepines and nonbenzodiazepines. In addition, these and other chapters deal with the most recent work on dopamine agonists, agents affecting GABA, and opiate receptors, reflecting current research interests in these important areas.

Pharmacodynamic Agents covers topics including anti-allergy drugs, diuretics, and antihypertensive agents. Unlike recent volumes which have covered specific cardiovascular areas in detail, Volume 13 contains a chapter entitled Agents for the Treatment of Heart Failure. This chapter outlines advances in areas such as the cardiac glycosides, vasodilators, β -adrenoreceptor stimulants, phosphodiesterase inhibitors, and cardiac stimulant peptides. Included also in this section is an interesting chapter on a rarely reviewed topic: Inhibitors of the Renin-Angiotensin System.

The section on Chemotherapeutic Agents contains a wealth of the most recent research findings on antibiotic, antifungal, antineoplastic, antiparasitic, and antiviral agents. In addition, there is an impressive review of the structure-activity relationships of "non-classical" β -lactam antibiotics, i.e., β -lactam antibiotics in which the bicyclic nucleus has been altered. Metabolic Diseases and Endocrine Function covers chronic