

and its interrelations with biochemistry, this series perhaps should be the first source consulted. Further detail may be located in monographs on specific topics; but for a comprehensive view of any general topic in organic chemistry, this series should be quite useful. Although the authors were faced with a formidable problem of selecting the most important topics, the series overall has a sufficient balance of new and old information to be of value for some time. For a relatively complete treatment of developments during the past two decades, this series probably is unchallenged by any single work; it represents a reasonable compromise between specialization and encyclopedism.

To the medicinal chemist, the extensive treatment of the newer methods of organic synthesis will be of great interest. Volume 5, which comprises naturally occurring compounds, enzyme catalysis, and biosynthetic pathways, should be of interest to all pharmaceutical scientists. Although relatively few examples of detailed mechanisms of enzyme catalysis are included, or known, the present understanding of the underlying factors is discussed well. The coverage of sulfur chemistry (vol. 3), usually deficient in most general texts on organic chemistry, is remarkably complete. The nitrogen heterocycles (vol. 4) also are given a more extensive treatment than some topics.

This series can be recommended for libraries in pharmacy colleges and in the pharmaceutical industry; the cost of the volumes, of course, would deter the individual purchaser. It is hoped that revisions of this series will be made, retaining the stated goal of keeping the science of organic chemistry comprehensible to those who use it.

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**Computer Assisted Studies of Chemical Structure and Biological Function.** By A. J. STUPER, W. E. BRÜGGER, and P. C. JURIS. Wiley, One Wiley Drive, Somerset, NJ 08873. 1979. xi + 220 pp. 16 × 23 cm. Price \$23.50.

This book provides a convenient introduction to pattern recognition techniques. It is very well written and sufficiently referenced to allow interested persons access to pertinent literature for more in-depth studies. Preprocessing and classification methods are summarized. Various means of generating molecular descriptions also are described. The methods are applied to tranquilizers and sedatives and to musk and trigeminally active odorants.

This book describes some of the methods used in pattern recognition studies. However, it is inappropriate to view the book as a "how-to-do-it" introduction to pattern recognition. While the algorithms are available, the most appropriate application of these algorithms to biological data still is a developing area. This book should stimulate additional research in this regard.

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**Antibiotics: Isolation, Separation, and Purification.** Edited by MARVIN J. WEINSTEIN and GERALD H. WAGMAN. (Journal of Chromatography Library, Vol. 15.) Elsevier/North-Holland Inc., 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, NY 10017. 1978. 769 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price \$84.75.

At first glance, this 15th volume of the Journal of Chromatography Library appears to be an ambitious attempt to describe the isolation, separation, and purification of most of the known antibiotics. The publication contains 17 chapters, each of which is devoted to a group of chemically related antibiotics. Each chapter was written by a different contributor. The editors selected the authors for their competence and knowledge in their respective areas.

The book covers therapeutically useful drugs such as the penicillins, cephalosporins, griseofulvins, lincomycins, macrolide antibiotics, peptide antibiotics, tetracyclines, 2-deoxystreptamine-containing antibiotics, and actinomycins, as well as groups of less well-known antibiotics such as the ansamycins, siderchromes, streptothricins, polyethers, and marine and plant-derived antibiotics.

The contribution by scientists who are knowledgeable in their respective fields is the strength of this publication. However, multiple authorship often leads to variations in the format of the chapters and to unevenness in the depth of the discussions of the antibiotic groups. All of the authors cover in one form or another the subject matter of this volume; in many cases, useful additional information concerning the chemistry, physical characteristics, and therapeutic uses of the antibiotics is included.

The book is not encyclopedic in its coverage; although the naturally occurring penicillins are described, the semisynthetic penicillins are not included. The antitumor drugs, which are considered to be antibiotics in this country, also are not included. Discussions of polymyxin and bacitracin are not among the polypeptide antibiotics. Coverage in some areas appears to be sparse. The contributor for the tetracycline antibiotics included only 52 references for this important class of antibiotics, whereas the author of the streptothricins chapter made reference to 225 publications.

Overall, the publication brings together a lot of useful information, especially in the areas of the less well-known antibiotic groups.

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The price indicated in the April 1980 issue for Catecholamines: Basic and Clinical Frontiers, Vols. I and II (Pergamon Press) was \$200.00 per volume. It should have been \$200.00 per two-volume set.