(*d*) increased prescribing of codeine. Other factors contributing to the opium shortage were the ban on opium growing in Turkey and reduced production in India due to unfavorable weather conditions.

A Dutch cartel succeeded in gaining control of a significant portion of the world's supply of quinidine, which resulted in alleged shortages of this drug and subsequent price increases.

The heparin shortage resulted from increased demand and also from a short supply of the major raw material, the intestinal mucosa of the hog. This shortage occurred when the number of hogs being slaughtered was reduced.

The penicillin shortage was attributed to an 11-month shutdown of a major manufacturer's facilities for making the product.

The author points out that there is a lack of information concerning drug shortages and that no agency has the authority and responsibility to gather and apply such information. Such an agency, along with a national advisory group with representatives from the pharmaceutical industry, the health professions, and government, is recommended by the author as a means to prevent shortages of essential drugs.

This book is interesting reading for anyone associated with the health professions or the pharmaceutical industry. Most of us are unaware that shortages of vital drugs have occurred and can occur in the future.

Reviewed by Clyde W. Whitworth
School of Pharmacy
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Nuclear Medicine: Review Syllabus. Edited by PETER T. KIRCHNER. Society of Nuclear Medicine, 475 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016. 1980. 619 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price $30.00.

This book is a product of over 50 contributors. It is an update of the major scientific and clinical advances that have occurred in nuclear medicine since the early 1970s. This volume is not presented as a textbook of nuclear medicine nor as an exposition of basic knowledge. In the preface, the senior editor states his hope that this book "will achieve its goal of assisting physicians in their efforts to maintain or reach clinical competence in the specialty of nuclear medicine."

The book offers an overview of 12 major areas in nuclear medicine. Chapters are included on radiopharmacology, instrumentation, radiation effects and radiation protection, cardiovascular, the central nervous system, endocrinology, gastroenterology, the genitourinary system, hematology–oncology, pulmonary, radioassay, and the skeletal system. The majority of the material is presented in a descriptive manner, with illustrations and tables kept to a minimum. With few exceptions, the text is well written, clear, and easy to follow. Difficulty may be encountered in attempting to locate a reference in a bibliography that was cited within the text.

The text contains a great amount of pertinent information beneficial to nuclear medicine physicians. This book is an excellent source of information for nuclear pharmacy practitioners and educators as well. Although not useful as an entry level textbook, it is of value as a library reference source in institutions with active research and educational programs in nuclear medicine or nuclear pharmacy.

Reviewed by Stanley M. Shaw
Department of Bionucleonics
School of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Catalog of Teratogenic Agents, 3rd Ed. Edited by THOMAS H. SHEPARD. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD 21218. 1980. 410 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm.

This reference text is essentially an alphabetized listing of known and suspected teratogenic agents that are believed to be involved in the development of congenital anomalies in experimental animals and humans. It is an updated version of previous editions, and the reader is made aware that yearly revisions probably will be forthcoming. Easy and quick revision is made possible by the fact that the material has been collected in the usual way and then transferred to computer cards and finally to tape for storage. New material can be inserted at the proper places without totally revising the previously written material. Both positive and negative results and full bibliographic references are included in the discussion of each agent. In addition, there are adequate subject and author indexes.

The stated purpose of the book is to help link the available information on experimental teratogenic agents with malformations occurring in humans. It is clearly pointed out in the introductory material that this task is not easy and that it often is impossible for a variety of reasons.

The most outstanding contribution to the literature provided by this book is the tables of comparative time periods of embryonic and fetal development in humans and experimental animals. One can determine easily what organ or tissue is developing at any time in gestation and consequently predict which tissues may be affected should a suspected teratogen be present at that particular time.

Many obviously important references have been left out, a deficiency that the author admits may be the case. To remedy this problem, the author states that anyone wishing to add material or provide corrections for future editions should do so on the address form provided in the last pages of the text. Unfortunately, this form is not present.

Because this catalog contains information concerning congenital defects due to pharmaceuticals, chemicals, environmental pollutants, food additives, household products, and viruses, it is recommended as a reference souce for anyone who has to answer questions concerning the teratogenic nature of the many agents included in these categories. Along with teratologists, obstetricians, pediatricians, geneticists, pharmacologists, and general practitioners would be particularly interested in this book.

Reviewed by Ronald F. Gautieri
Department of Pharmacology
School of Pharmacy
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA 19140

British Pharmacopoeia 1980. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1BN, England. 1980. 1196 pp. 22 × 31.5 cm. Price £60.

The *1980 British Pharmacopoeia* provides standards for the quality of substances and preparations used in medicine and pharmacy which will become effective in the United Kingdom on December 1, 1980. The 1980 BP incorporates, in edited form, all of the relevant monographs and methods currently contained in the *European Pharmacopoeia*. It also presents, in updated form, a large number of monographs formerly contained in the *British Pharmaceutical Codex*.

The increase in the range of entries covered in the BP resulted in its expansion to two volumes. Volume I contains monographs of medicinal and pharmaceutical substances, including simple organic salts, complex synthetic chemicals, vegetable drugs, antibiotics, and hormones and vitamins. The standards are accompanied by information on their action, use, dose, solubility, storage, and labeling. Style changes in this edition include indication of the stereochemical configuration in structural formulas, where possible. SI units have been introduced where practicable, and an approximate equivalent in the more familiar cgs system is given in parentheses.

Volume II includes an extensive formulary section. It also features discussions of blood products, immunological products, radiopharmaceutical preparations, and surgical materials. The 24 appendixes in Volume II describe procedures and requirements that are necessary for interpretation of the standards. Among the subjects featured in the appendixes are reagents, spectroscopic and chromatographic analyses, determinations of physical properties, limit tests, disintegration tests for dosage forms, and biological and biochemical assays and tests for antibiotics, immunological products, hormones, blood and related products, and enzymes. Tests for sterility, microbial contamination, and efficacy of preservatives also are included. A 48-page index is provided at the end of Volume II.

The significant expansion of the *British Pharmacopoeia* since its previous (1973) edition enhances its value as a reference source.

Staff Review