

the drug, briefly addresses the mode of action of the drug(s), lists the pharmaceutical preparations available with the recommended dosage, discusses the pharmacodynamic properties of the drug(s) in an uncomplicated fashion, and describes the indications for use and adverse effects (toxicological and allergic). When appropriate, antidotal measures, drug interactions, and contraindications are included.

The book is not a complete treatise on pharmacology and should not be expected to replace general pharmacology texts. Neither does it provide an in-depth discourse on the pathological signs or symptoms of diseases or their most appropriate therapeutic approach. It is an easily read introduction into each of these areas. As an aid in using the book as a reference in clinical pharmacology and therapeutics, the index lists the drugs, disease states, pathological conditions, and organisms responsible for infectious pathological diseases. The fact that the book is written and published in the United Kingdom does not detract from its potential, but perhaps limited, usefulness by U.S. pharmacists.

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**The Organic Chemistry of Drug Synthesis, Vol. 2.** By DANIEL LEDNICER and LESTER A. MITSCHER. Wiley, 605 Third Ave., New York, NY 10016. 1980. 526 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price \$28.00.

This book is Volume 2 in a series and apparently will be followed by future volumes as generic names are granted. Together, Volumes 1 and 2 include syntheses for compounds granted a generic name by the USAN Council through 1976.

In making a comparison between Volumes 1 and 2, one notices immediately that the latter volume is easier to read because of the darker type and greater spacing between lines. This volume, although not errorless, appears to contain fewer mistakes than the previous one. The final 13 pages contain Errata for Volume 1.

As the title implies, the major focus is on organic chemistry (particularly, drug synthesis), with appropriate brief mention of the associated pharmacological action. The authors have done a good job illustrating the reaction mechanisms for many synthetic pathways while keeping details to a minimum. Historical sidelights (e.g., cortisone story on p. 176 and LSD story on p. 476) also enliven the reading.

This volume contains 16 chapters as opposed to 22 in Volume 1. Most of the same chapter headings are carried over in Volume 2. Deletions include: Chapter 1, Introduction; Chapter 2, A Case Study in Molecular Manipulation: The Local Anesthetics; Chapter 7, Arylethylenes and Their Reduction Products (no mention of diethylstilbestrol or its derivatives in Volume 2); Chapter 11, Tetracyclines (this material is incorporated into Chapter 7, Polycyclic Aromatic and Hydroaromatic Compounds); Chapter 12, Acyclic Compounds (new material is found in Chapter 1, Monocyclic and Acyclic Aliphatic Compounds); and Chapter 19, Phenothiazines (incorporated into Chapter 14, Heterocycles Fused to Two Benzene Rings). In addition to the chapter headings for

various types of aliphatic, aromatic, and heterocyclic compounds, the chapters on steroids, morphinoids, benzodiazepines, and  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics are retained. Changes in chapter organization were necessitated by the relative amounts of new work. Volume 2 contains several examples of antineoplastic drug syntheses, which were lacking in the previous volume. The valuable Cross Index of Drugs also is retained.

This book fills a previous void since medicinal chemistry texts sometimes must slight the presentation of drug synthesis. This reviewer finds it to be a valuable contribution, which should be particularly useful to practicing medicinal and organic chemists as well as to students of these disciplines.

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## NOTICES

*Elsevier's Dictionary of Pharmaceutical Science and Techniques, Vol. 2: Materia Medica.* In Six Languages. By A. SLIOSBERG. Elsevier/North-Holland, 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, NY 10017. 1980. 552 pp. 15 × 22 cm. Price \$122.00.

*Lecture Notes in Chemistry, Vol. 15. Steric Fit in Quantitative Structure-Activity Relations.* By ALEXANDRU T. BALABAN, ADRIAN CHRIRAC, IOAN MOTOC, and ZENO SIMON. Springer-Verlag New York, 44 Hartz Way, Secaucus, NJ 07094. 1980. 178 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price \$17.50.

*Handbook of Biological Psychiatry, Part III: Brain Mechanisms and Abnormal Behavior—Genetics and Neuroendocrinology.* Vol. 1. Edited by HERMAN M. VAN PRAAG, MALCOLM H. LADER, OLE J. RAFAELSEN, and EDWARD J. SACHAR. Dekker, 270 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. 1980. 383 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price \$29.50.

*Reviews of Physiology, Biochemistry and Pharmacology, Vol. 87.* Edited by R. H. ADRIAN *et al.* Springer-Verlag New York, 44 Hartz Way, Secaucus, NJ 07094. 1980. 232 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price \$51.90.

*Progress in Medicinal Chemistry, Vol. 17.* Edited by G. P. ELLIS and G. B. WEST. Elsevier/North-Holland, 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, NY 10017. 1980. 280 pp. 14 × 21 cm. Price \$64.00.

*A Clinician's Guide to Research Design.* By GERALD GOLDSTEIN. Nelson-Hall, 111 N. Canal St., Chicago, IL 60606. 1980. 280 pp. 13 × 21 cm. Price \$24.95.

*Biomedical Polymers. Polymeric Materials and Pharmaceuticals for Biomedical Use.* Edited by EUGENE P. GOLDBERG and AKIO NAKAJIMA. Academic, 111 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003. 1980. 457 pp. 15 × 23 cm.

*Marijuana Research Findings: 1980. NIDA Research Monograph 31.* Edited by ROBERT C. PETERSEN. 1980. 221 pp. 14 × 23 cm. (Distributed by U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Public Health Service, Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.)