

reveal the impact of scar formation on the bioavailability of drugs and irritants applied topically over the scarred surface.

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BOOKS

REVIEWS

Controlled Release of Bioactive Materials. Edited by RICHARD BAKER. Academic, 111 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003. 1980. 473 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price \$34.50.

This book constitutes a collection of 27 papers delivered at the sixth International Symposium on Controlled-Release Materials in New Orleans in 1979. The first 12 papers deal with various aspects of controlled drug delivery systems.

In the first paper, Heller and Baker review the theory and practice of controlled drug delivery from biodegradable polymers. The mechanisms of drug release from these polymers are discussed in depth, and several illustrative examples are presented. Applications of biodegradable polymers are discussed further in the ensuing two papers by Pitt *et al.* and Petersen *et al.*

In the fourth paper, Theeuwes and Echenhoff present the applications of osmotic drug delivery systems. The design and experimental performance of two osmotic devices are described. The generic osmotic pump (Alzet) is designed to deliver the contents of 170 μ l at the rate of either 1 μ l/hr over a 1-week period or 0.5 μ l/hr over 2 weeks. The other device is the elementary osmotic pump, which is generally fabricated in the shape of a tablet, with a single-delivery orifice. A paper by Chandrasekaran and Shaw is concerned with controlled, transdermal drug delivery.

Other papers of pharmaceutical interest deal with polymers that include poly(lactic acid) and the hydrogels. Rhine and coworkers present a new approach to achieve zero-order release kinetics from diffusion-controlled polymer matrix systems. The theoretical basis for these kinetics is presented as a comparison of kinetics from matrix devices of other geometries.

The second half of the book is concerned essentially with topics not directly related to drug delivery systems. Controlled-release systems containing insecticides, molluscicides, and plant growth regulators are discussed and described. Implantable systems for the delivery of insect growth regulators to livestock are evaluated by Jaffe and coworkers. The basic technology used to design several of these systems is very similar to drug-containing devices.

This book is a collection of high quality research papers, prepared by scientists in widely different fields. As such, the book is highly recommended for both academic and industrial pharmaceutical scientists,

chemists, biologists, and chemical engineers who have an interest in controlled-release technology.

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British National Formulary 1981: Number 1. The Pharmaceutical Press, 1 Lambert St., London, SE1 7JN, England. 1981. 387 pp. 12 × 23 cm. Price £3.80

The *British National Formulary* is designed for use by doctors, pharmacists, and nurses in the National Health Service in the United Kingdom. Unlike earlier editions that were published every 2 or 3 years and contained only those drugs and preparations having the confidence of the Joint Formulary Committee, the 1981 edition is an outgrowth of the Committee's response to requests for a wider coverage of drugs available in the United Kingdom and more detailed guidance in prescribing and dispensing.

This new edition provides more descriptive information to assist the prescriber in selecting the appropriate treatment for a particular patient. A double-column format was followed to accommodate the increased volume of information and to allow the book to "still fit into the doctor's pocket."

The BNF begins with sections on Guidance on Prescribing and Emergency Treatment on Poisoning. The main text consists of classified notes divided into 15 chapters: Gastro-intestinal System; Cardiovascular System; Respiratory System; Central Nervous System; Infections; Endocrine System; Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Malignant Disease and Immunosuppression; Nutrition and Blood; Musculoskeletal and Joint Diseases; Eye; Ear, Nose, and Oropharynx; Skin; Immunological Products and Vaccines; and Anaesthesia. Each chapter begins with appropriate notes for prescribers to facilitate selection of suitable treatment followed by detailed monographs of the relevant drugs and preparations (indications, contraindications, cautions, side-effects, doses, dosage forms, routes of administration, and relative prices). Drugs appear under their pharmacopoeial titles or British Approved Names and are listed alpha-