REVIEWS

Concepts in Drug Metabolism (in Two Parts) Part B (Drug and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vol. 10.) Edited by PETER JENNER and BERNARD TESTA. Dekker, 270 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. 1981. 627 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price $65.00.

Concepts in Drug Metabolism is a two volume, multiauthored collection of essays on major topics in drug metabolism and allied fields. The various chapters reflect the state of knowledge from the viewpoint of each of the respective authors.

The contents of Part B are divided into nine chapters which deal with the following topics: The role of the endoplasmic reticulum in physiological and pathological situations; the hepatic cytochrome P-450 drug metabolizing systems; toxification and detoxification as a result of xenobiotic metabolism; enzyme induction and inhibition related to drug action and interactions; genetic aspects of drug metabolism; some evolutionary considerations regarding drug metabolism and toxicity; *in vivo* assessment of hepatic drug disposition; altered drug disposition in disease states; and is drug metabolism due to necessity, chance, mishap, or none of the above?

Since each chapter has been written by a different author, some overlapping has occurred. However, this demonstrates the relationship and interdependencies of the various topics. The reader will find that most of the chapters in Part B are more factual and less philosophical than some of the chapters found in Part A.

The chapters are well referenced and, although not being all inclusive, reflect a command of the most important research in each area. A drawback is that with few exceptions, Part B represents a review of the literature through 1978. The area of drug metabolism is a rapidly moving field, and many significant contributions have been made in the interval between the time the book was finished and the date of publication. This is a problem which is common to an active area of research.

Concepts in Drug Metabolism is intended for use by postgraduate students and research workers in the fields of biomedicinal chemistry, pharmacology, toxicology, and biochemistry. The two volume set makes an excellent text for a graduate level course in drug metabolism. Unfortunately, the cost of the books tends to prohibit purchase by students. The volume serves as a valuable guide in the area of drug metabolism; however, it is also an important source of new ideas since many of the chapters go beyond the basic facts, providing a conceptual, almost philosophical, approach to some of the topical areas.

Part B of *Concepts in Drug Metabolism* in conjunction with Part A provides an authoritative overview of basic topics and developments in drug metabolism and related areas. The two volume set is highly recommended for persons working in the general area of xenobiotic metabolism.

Reviewed by Sidney J. Stohs
University of Nebraska
College of Pharmacy
Lincoln NE 68508

Pharmaceutical Analysis: Modern Methods, Part A (Drugs and the Pharmaceutical Sciences Series, Vol. 11). Edited by JAMES W. MUNSON. Dekker, 270 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. 1981. 504 pp. 15.5 × 23.2 cm. Price $55.00 (Special Student Price $29.75).

As stated in the preface, this text is intended to "provide an intermediate level of coverage ... (it) is designed for the graduate student studying pharmaceutical analysis and for the researcher . . . who wishes to increase his personal awareness and understanding of modern techniques of pharmaceutical analysis."

The first three chapters offer a review of the theory, instrumentation, and applications to pharmaceutical analysis of gas chromatography (GC), pyrolysis GC, and GC–mass spectroscopy. The authors of each chapter have incorporated and harmonized theory and practice and have written three well-integrated chapters. The topics are covered at a depth suitable for a graduate course covering the GC aspects of pharmaceutical analysis.

The last three chapters deal with luminescence (fluorescence and phosphorescence) spectroscopy, liquid scintillation counting, and radioimmunoassays. The chapter authors have done an excellent job of presenting the underlying theory and applications of their individual topics: there is greater detail and breadth of coverage than is usually found in other textbooks devoted to pharmaceutical analysis. However, the interrelationship of these chapters with each other, or with the rest of the text, does not meet the high standard established in the first three chapters. In fact, if there is a fault with this text, it is in the organization and integration of the individual chapter topics with one another. For example, in terms of material, the logical arrangement would have been to incorporate the chapters on high-performance liquid chromatography and quantitative thin-layer chromatography, which are to be covered in Part B, with the chapters on GC found in this volume.

Nevertheless, the presentation and content of material in each chapter is excellent, and taken individually they are well-suited for graduate courses in pharmaceutical analysis. However, the ordering and arrangement of the topic chapters in both Part A and Part B make it ill-suited for courses that may be segregated into spectroscopic and separation techniques.

Reviewed by Wallace J. Murray
College of Pharmacy
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68105