

are planned. Obviously, the selection of compounds is of paramount importance for a work of this type: the fifth edition has maintained the careful and useful selection that has characterized the previous editions.

Compounds are listed by the most commonly used name, with other names included. The structural formula is included with the entry, which shows the stereochemical configuration where required. The R,S and E,Z systems have replaced the older D,L and *cis-trans* stereochemical conventions. Other information provided in each entry includes the molecular formula and weight, source, physical data for stereoisomeric forms, melting points of both compound and derivatives, spectral data, and use. Hazard and toxicity information is included in this edition, along with a Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances number. Bibliographic references include both old and new references (up to 1981), and many indicate the type of information included. Physical constants such as  $pK_a$  and optical rotations are often listed in the entry; specific references generally indicate synthetic methods, reviews, and some spectroscopic data. Crystallization solvents are also frequently mentioned.

The selection of compounds for inclusion followed these criteria: fundamental organic compounds of simple structure, most compounds of widespread industrial or commercial use, all important natural products, and other compounds of particular chemical or biological interest. More than 12,000 natural products have been entered, and this may well be the most current and extensive compilation of natural products available. Also, more than 10,000 heterocyclics and 1,500 organometallics are recorded. In regard to compounds of pharmaceutical interest, about 450 drug substances are listed under C alone, which compares with 118 substances listed under this letter in the *USP XX*.

Page layouts and the typographic plan for each entry have been improved over those of previous editions, and the pages have a distinctly uncluttered appearance. The structural formulae also reflect a new standard. A greater clarity, and consequent ease of use, has been achieved.

Changes over previous editions include a much greater amount of stereochemical data, the inclusion of hazard warnings and toxicity data, greater use of *Chemical Abstracts Service* names, as well as *USAN* and *BAN* names and *CAS Registry* numbers. Also, the annotation of the bibliography is a marked improvement.

Multiple indexes are also included for the first time. Four indexes are provided: a *Name* index, which includes alternative names; a *Molecular Formula* index; a *Heteroatom* index; and a *CAS Registry Number* index. The latter provides a link to computer-based information services which incorporate these numbers.

*Heilbron's Dictionary of Organic Compounds* has been valued by organic chemists for practically 50 years; the fifth edition should be as valuable to biochemists, biologists, and pharmacologists. It is recommended for every library serving these disciplines as a most time-saving and convenient source of information on the more useful organic compounds.

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## NOTICES

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