Polyether Antibiotics, Vol. 1: Naturally Occurring Acid Ionophores. Edited by JOHN W. WESTLEY. Dekker, New York, N.Y. 1982. 565 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price $65.00 (20% higher outside the U.S. and Canada).

This is the first volume of a two-volume work on the naturally occurring ionophore antibiotics. These antibiotics bind monovalent or divalent cations. The best known and commercially produced ones are the anticoccidia agents lasalocid and monensin.

The book starts with a classification scheme for the 76 polyether antibiotics known by 1982. There are 10 chapters. Chapter 1 is on notation and classification. Structural formulas are used in large number as they should be in such a book. Chapter 2 is on taxonomy of the organisms that produce the antibiotics. One half of the antibiotics are produced by different strains of two species of *Streptomyces.* Chapter 3 discusses biosynthesis, production, and assay. Chapter 4 is on the complexes formed by the antibiotics and cations, and transport of the cations by the complexes. Chapter 5 "provides a broad overview of the many, diverse effects of the carboxylic acid ionophores on biological systems." There is a chapter on veterinary applications, one on the effect of lasalocid and monensin in chickens, one on the pharmacology of lasalocid (cardiovascular action), one on cardiovascular and renal effects of an ionophore, and the final chapter on bromolasalocid as an antihypertensive ionophore. Those with an interest in monensin will find the coverage as complete as published literature permits.

This book has some interesting statistics. Ten of the authors were from Hoffmann-LaRoche, Inc.; the other eight were from medical schools, USDA, *etc.* Of the 465 pages, 200 were text and figures, 135 were tables, 95 were bibliography, 30 were an author index, and 6 were a subject index. The subject index is skimpy for a book of this size and importance. References are collected at the end of each chapter. A very unusual feature is giving of the complete title of each publication cited.

The publisher is to be commended for departing from the current norm of bookmaking by printing the title in large blue letters on a white spine thus enabling the title to be read from a distance greater than 2 feet. This book illustrates one advantage of having a domestic company with close ties to Europe with its concept of scholarly works.

All who work with polyether antibiotics should have a copy of this book.

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Trends in Inflammation Research 2. (Agents and Actions Supplements, Vol. 10). Edited by H. BEKEMEIER AND R. HIRSCHELMANN. Birkhäuser Boston, Inc., Cambridge, MA 02139. 1982. 315 pp. 16.5 × 23.5 cm. Price $37.95.

All of the papers in this book were presented at the 4th Summer Colloquium on Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Immunology of Inflammation held at the Martin Luther University in Germany during July 1981. The title of the book, together with the description of the contents on the outside back cover, suggests that this collection of papers should be a valuable source of information on recent anti-inflammatory research carried out in West Germany.

On closer reading, however, the book proved disappointing. The authors are drawn mainly from just a few research centers so that the book covers only limited aspects of inflammation research. Of the 52 contributors to the volume, no less than 20 come from the Martin Luther University; 40 of the 52 contributors are from just four German universities. Furthermore, of the 23 chapters in the book, 10 are co-authored by H. Bekemeier and 7 are co-authored by R. Hirschelmann.

Other aspects of the book can be criticized. The sentence structure is often very awkward, evidently arising from an inadequate translation from the original German. This makes it difficult for the English-speaking reader to understand the material. It appears as though every paper submitted for publication was accepted without modification. A number of chapters are not written in a proper scientific journal format nor do they appear to have been critically reviewed prior to publication. The book serves as a vehicle for reporting many negative laboratory results that would not be publishable elsewhere. As a result, the quality of the papers in this book is below that found in an average journal.

I cannot recommend this book. It is not of general utility to scientists in the field of anti-inflammatory drug research. The book is difficult to read and too diffuse in subject matter. A few of the papers may be worthy of publication in a scientific journal, but only after appropriate impartial review and editorial revision.

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Hormone Drugs. Workshop Organizers, JOHN L. GUERIGUIAN, EDWIN D. BRANSOME, JR., and AUDREY S. OUTSCHOORN. U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc., 12601 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852. 1982. 584 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price $49.00 (plus postage).

This book contains the proceedings of the FDA–USP Workshop on Drug and Reference Standards for Insulins, Somatropins, and Thyroid-axis Hormones, which was held in Bethesda, Maryland, in May 1982.

The volume contains over 50 papers presented at the meeting by experts in the field from Europe, New Zealand, and the United States. The subjects covered are timely from the clinical, scientific, and commercial standpoints, since they concern problems relating to standardization of these substances. Representative examples of papers presented at the Workshop are: "Production of Human Monocomponent Insulin," "Radioimmunological Determinations of Contaminants in Insulins," "Desired Characteristics of Insulins to be used in Insulin Pumps," "Structure and Function of Growth Hormones," "The Human Growth Hormone Gene Family," "Non-Isotopic Methods for Determination of Oral Thyroxine Absorption," and "Hypothalamic Peptide Hormones for Clinical Use."

For each of the three groups of hormone drugs, the proceedings include a summary presentation of current viewpoints regarding standardization with an eventual aim of precise dosage efficacy and safety. Also included is a general overview which describes potential developments in newer forms and formulations for better patient treatment.

This series of well-written papers clearly provides comprehensive information on drug and reference standards for insulins, somatropins, and thyroid-axis hormones and problems relating to the standardization of these substances. It is a valuable resource for scientists with interests in these aforementioned areas.

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NOTICES

Advanced Interpretation of Clinical Laboratory Data. (Clinical and Biochemical Analysis Series, Vol. 13). Edited by CAMILLE HEUSGHEM, ADELIN ALBERT, and ELLIS S. BENSON. Dekker, 270 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. 1982. 420 pp. 15 × 24 cm. Price $55.00 (20% higher outside the U.S. and Canada).

Advances in Chromatography. Vol. 20. Edited by J. CALVIN GIDDINGS, ELI GRUSHKA, JACK CAZES, and PHYLLIS R. BROWN. Dekker, 270 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. 1982. 286 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price $45.00 (20% higher outside the U.S. and Canada).

Analysis of Drugs and Metabolites By Gas Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry. Vol. 7. By BENJAMIN J. GUDZINOWICZ and MICHAEL J. GUDZINOWICZ. Dekker, 270 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. 1980. 557 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price $69.50.

Antibiotics in Laboratory Medicine. By VICTOR LORIAN. Williams & Wilkins, P.O. Box 64024, Baltimore, MD 21264. 1980. 737 pp. 17 × 25 cm. Price $65.00.