

REVIEWS

USAN and the USP Dictionary of Drug Names, 1984 Ed. Edited by MARY C. GRIFFITHS. United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc., 12061 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852. 1983. 640 pp. 21 × 28 cm. Price \$45.00 (discounts for 11+ copies).

The 1984 cumulative edition of *USAN* contains over 18,500 nonproprietary (*USAN* and *INN*) and proprietary drug names in one compact volume. Most entries include current CAS names, graphic formulas, and manufacturers. Combined with the cross-index by pharmacologic-therapeutic category, list of CAS registry numbers, and appendix of molecular formulas, this volume constitutes a definitive source of information on drug substances used in the United States. A must for all researchers in the pharmaceutical field.

—Staff Review

The Merck Index, 10th Ed. Edited by MARTHA WINDHOLZ. Merck & Co., P.O. Box 2000, Rahway, NJ 07065. 1983. 2052 pp. 18 × 25.5 cm. Price \$28.50.

This encyclopedia of chemicals, drugs, and biological substances, now in its 94th year of publication, is internationally recognized as an authoritative reference work. Written and edited by the chemists of Merck & Co., the 10th edition continues in the tradition, incorporating the considerable new knowledge in the field that has accumulated in the 7 years since the 9th edition was published. This reasonably priced single volume of precise up-to-date data is an essential laboratory and library resource.

—Staff Review

Cologne Atherosclerosis Conference No. I: Inflammatory Aspects. Edited by MICHAEL J. PARNHAM and JOHANNES WINKELMAN. Birkhäuser Boston, Inc., 380 Green Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. 1982. 265 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price \$31.95.

If one were to judge a book by its title, this one would be a disappointment. The title suggests an exposition of the role of inflammation in the siting and development of atherosclerosis. Instead, this is a monograph on inflammation, particularly as it relates to arthritis. Hopefully, the right audience will find the book.

The material is divided into three sections: six chapters on the role of the microvasculature in inflammation, five chapters on the role of various cell types in inflammation, and six chapters on the mediators of inflammation. The "Microvasculature in Inflammation" section is very well covered. The four presentations of Hensen, Williams, Bray, and Bjork form a cogent and provocative overview of the field. The second section, "Cells in Inflammation," is largely limited to a discussion of the monocyte/macrophage. With that constraint, the inflammatory panoply had to be selectively unfolded. This is not a serious problem since the role of the neutrophil was well covered in the first section and the lymphocyte, although in the background, is ever present as a regulator of macrophage activity. For an integrated account of the role of helper and suppressor lymphocytes in the maintenance of chronic inflammation, one would need to look elsewhere. The third section, "Mediators of Inflammation," is a potpourri of topics ranging from complement to oxygen radicals to antigen-induced arthritis. The contribution of Bitter-Sauermann on the role of complement in inflammation is outstanding as a succinct essay on complement C3a and C5a anaphylatoxin activation and regulation. The difficult task of integrating all of this material is attempted in a summary overview. It is noteworthy principally for reminding us of the plurality of cells, products, and processes involved in inflammation.

In addition, a number of narrow contributions are scattered throughout the three sections. They may appeal to the specialist, but for most they will add to the cost rather than the value of the volume. Overall, this multicontributor book has ample good articles to recommend it to those seeking an up-to-date, albeit selective, overview of inflammation as related to the arthritides. It cannot be recommended to those whose primary interest is atherosclerosis.

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MARTINDALE: The Extra Pharmacopeia, 28th Ed. Edited by JAMES E. F. REYNOLDS and ANNE B. PRASAD. The Pharmacopeial Press, 1 Lamberth High Street, London, SE1 7JN. Distributed in the U.S. by Rittenhouse Book Distributors, Inc., King of Prussia, PA 19406. 1982. 2025 pp. 21 × 25 cm. Price \$130.00.

A 25% increase in information, extensive revisions, and 900 new monographs have been incorporated in the 28th edition of *Martindale*. This long-standing reference for pharmacists, which has evolved over a 100-year period, contains monographs of current, new, and investigational drugs grouped by class. Each monograph contains the chemical name, molecular weight and formula, proprietary names, literature documentation, and other information.

Although *Martindale* continues to place emphasis on drugs used in the U.K., it is international in scope, listing proprietary names from many different countries. With an index of drug names containing over 50,000 entries to provide easy access, this volume is an essential reference tool for all pharmaceutical scientists and libraries.

—Staff Review

Drug Fate and Metabolism: Methods and Techniques, Vol. 4. Edited by EDWARD R. GARRETT and JEAN L. HIRTZ. Marcel Dekker, Inc., 270 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. 1983. 504 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price \$75.00 (20% higher outside the U.S. and Canada).

This book is the fourth in a series, each volume of which represents a compilation of individually authored chapters. The topics treated are concerned with various aspects of drug disposition and analytical methods that are useful for quantitating and characterizing drugs and metabolites in biological fluids. The present volume contains a cumulative subject index for this and the previous volumes.

This volume contains six chapters covering a wide range of interests. The first chapter, "Computer Use in Pharmacokinetics," will be useful to those individuals currently employing or contemplating the use of computer programs for the pharmacokinetic analysis of data. There is a good basic discussion of the statistical foundation for curve-fitting routines and practical concerns that arise from such analyses. A particularly attractive aspect of this chapter is a series of appendices (18, 68 pages) that discuss analog computation (Appendix 1) along with a brief summary of many currently available digital computer programs. Each summary includes a description, subroutines, input requirements, output, limitations, and practical considerations. To this re-