

BOOK REVIEWS

THE SULPHONAMIDES. F. Hawking and J. Stewart Lawrence. Pp. viii + 390 (including 46 illustrations, 12 plates and 17 tables). H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., London. 1950. 42s.

Fourteen years after its introduction, we are now at the beginning of the end of sulphonamide therapy. At first the introduction of new compounds proceeded apace and later the basic knowledge of the subject developed and became consolidated. Originally the pace was rather fast for the average clinician and the books which appeared on the subject tended soon to become out-of-date. It was not until the Medical Research Council War Memorandum No. 10 "The Medical Use of Sulphonamides" appeared in 1943, with a second edition in 1945, that a brief and accurate review of the principles of the subject and of the practical clinical considerations became available. These must have been best sellers among their kind. Further developments of importance are unlikely now, and with a detachment hitherto impossible, a definitive review of the whole subject is both possible and called for. This, the work under consideration, magnificently provides.

There are 27 chapters, in which all aspects of the subject are described, followed by an extensive bibliography of the many original papers quoted and a less extensive, although apparently adequate, index.

The completeness and accuracy of this work leaves nothing to object to. Doubtless a second edition will be called for and, in that event, the authors might distinguish those names of sulphonamide drugs which are trade marks from those which are not. But few developments have occurred since this work was published; 4:4'-diamino-diphenylsulphone, stated on page 14 not to have come into clinical use, has recently been introduced for the treatment of leprosy, a reference to this being given on page 289. Pharmacists will note that the compound described on page 21 under a proprietary name is now included in the B.P.C. under the name sulphadimidine. Succinylsulphacetamide is not among the compounds described. For a work of this character the number of misprints is remarkably few, in fact the only one noted was 1.5 grammes on page 240 instead of 15 grammes.

The average pharmacist and practising clinician should find in this book the answer to almost any question on sulphonamide therapy. For all pharmaceutical and medical libraries it is obviously essential, and will doubtless become and remain a standard work.

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ABSTRACTS (Continued from page 534)

and little extracellular material was formed even up to 9 days after the wound. Striking changes occurred on giving vitamin C to the depleted group. Increase in the amount of metachromatic staining material was noted within 6 hours and the increase was large within 12 hours, isolated cells being surrounded by material showing metachromasia. Within 24 hours fibre formation was evident. The morphology of all the cells became normal in 48 hours. Treatment of the sections with hyaluronidase removed the substances responsible for the extracellular metachromasia, suggesting that they are mucopolysaccharides of the hyaluronic or chondroitin sulphate types. Treatment with ribonuclease removed the substances responsible for metachromasia in the cytoplasm, suggesting that they are ribo-nucleoproteins. The initial stage in fibre formation is probably the deposition of mucopolysaccharides, the production of which is dependent on the supply of vitamin C.

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