

BOOK REVIEW

CLARK'S APPLIED PHARMACOLOGY. Eighth Edition, revised by Andrew Wilson and H. O. Schild. Pp. x + 670 (including 120 illustrations) and Index. J. and A. Churchill, Ltd., London. 1952. 37s. 6d.

There can be few pharmacologists who have not read and profited from the writings of the late Professor Clark. His book on the "Mode of Action of Drugs on Cells," published in 1933, was hailed at the time "as the most important contribution made to pharmacology in recent years." This book on "Applied Pharmacology" was first published in 1923, and 7 editions had appeared by 1940 shortly before Professor Clark's death. In preparing this new edition Professor Andrew Wilson and Dr. H. O. Schild have carried out a most commendable task. This could not have been easy, bearing in mind the rapid advances in pharmacology since 1942. They have painstakingly maintained the original broad foundations of the earlier editions, and yet have adequately included the new advances and new discoveries. This book was originally written in order to bridge the gap between the laboratory science of pharmacology and the clinical practice of therapeutics, so as to demonstrate as clearly as possible the connection between the two subjects. It consists of 31 chapters, giving a full and comprehensive account of pharmacology and chemotherapy based on a solid foundation of physiology. This is how pharmacology should be taught. There is a logical and systematic application of the principles of pharmacology in the treatment of disease, which gives the book a valuable place in therapeutics. Throughout, the book deals with the pharmacology of the various organs and physiological processes, rather than with the individual drugs themselves, the properties of which must be sought in several chapters. Inevitably, in a book of this size, space limits an adequate description of all the drugs and one might say "the book does not go far enough." However, the revisers have recognised this and included at the end of each chapter a list of general literature for supplementary reading. Here, too, there is selected list of official preparations, together with their dosage given entirely in the metric system. The chapter on the pharmacology of the autonomic nervous system seems all too short for such an important branch of pharmacology, and should be extended in subsequent editions. The chapter on the pharmacology of the heart is rather difficult to understand. There is certainly a need for a clear, concise and accurate account of the actions of the cardiac glycosides. This book offers to medical students, practitioners and pharmacists, a readable account of the principles and practice of pharmacology in relation to human disease.

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ABSTRACTS (Continued from page 599.)

Veriloid (*Veratrum viride*), Treatment of Arterial Hypertension with. R. Kauntze and J. Trounce. (*Lancet*, 1951, 261, 1002.) Veriloid is a mixture of ester alkaloids of *Veratrum viride*, standardised for hypotensive activity in dogs. It acts on the afferent vagus nerve and central nervous system direct. Administered by mouth or intravenous infusion, veriloid lowers the blood pressure in about 66 per cent. of hypertensive patients. Owing to its toxicity, the drug is useful in only 20 to 30 per cent. of cases, and dosage needs continuous supervision. Renal insufficiency is not adversely affected. Toxic symptoms which include nausea, recurrent vomiting and collapse are best treated with phenobarbitone. The same side reactions are observed with the pure alkaloids, germitrine and germidine.

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