

## BOOK REVIEW

*METHODEN DER ORGANISCHEN CHEMIE* (Houben-Weyl). Volume IV. Part 2. Allgemeine chemische Methoden. Fourth Edition. Edited by Eugen Müller. Pp. xxviii + 1004 (including 77 illustrations and Index). Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 1955. D.M. 152.00.

This latest volume of the series to appear is devoted to the description of certain general and practical methods of organic chemistry. Like the earlier volumes, it provides a most useful and easily accessible collection of information covering widely diverse aspects of the subject. The treatment of catalysis in the first four chapters, which together cover rather more than a third of the whole volume, is most detailed and complete, even at the expense of reproducing information on such aspects as acid-base catalysis which have received more than adequate treatment in other works of reference. The information is presented from both theoretical and practical standpoints. The chapter which deals with the preparation of catalysts and catalyst mixtures in particular will appeal to the practical man, the preparation of catalyst carriers, and classification of catalysts according to reaction type, being just two of the special features of this section of particular value. Heterogeneous catalysis is discussed from the same standpoint, and this section also includes more general information, such as descriptions of apparatus, catalyst poisons, effect of temperature, pressure, etc. The inclusion of short chapters on electrochemical and pyrochemical methods provides much valuable material which is not so easily accessible elsewhere. The volume includes a most detailed account of methods which have been used for the introduction of isotopic carbon into the common organic functional groups. Methods for a few specific compounds such as  $H^{14}CHO$ ,  $^{14}CH_3NO_2$ ,  $^{14}CH_3I$ ,  $^{14}CH_2N_2$  are described in detail. Methods are also given for the introduction of  $^{15}N$ ,  $^{35}S$ ,  $^{32}P$ , etc., into organic compounds. In this section in particular, as elsewhere in this volume, much of the information has been usefully tabulated. A chapter on the synthesis of large ring compounds, by Professor Zieyler, and chapters on biochemical and microbiological reactions, similarly contribute useful reviews of these subjects. Typographical errors, not corrected in the erratum, are few. The structure for bispidin (p. 857) which shows two "pentavalent" carbon atoms, is one of the very few uncorrected errors in a volume which, like its predecessors, shows evidence of the most careful compilation. It is extensively referenced.

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### ABSTRACTS (continued from page 358.)

The patients treated with oral streptomycin were given 0.5 g. twice a day regardless of age; 19 were treated for 3 days and 6 for 5 to 8 days. Treatment in all cases was considered to be successful when the first 6 specimens taken after the end of treatment were negative for *Sh. sonnei* and to have failed when *Sh. sonnei* was isolated from any of these specimens. In each group the interval between the end of treatment and the 6th negative specimen averaged 9 days, with a range of 6 to 16 days in the tetracycline and streptomycin groups and 7 to 14 days in the phthalylsulphathiazole group. Treatment was successful in only a third of the patients given phthalylsulphathiazole or streptomycin, whereas there was only one failure with tetracycline. All the strains of *Sh. sonnei* tested were sensitive to 4 to 8  $\mu\text{g./ml.}$  of tetracycline. Sulphonamide-sensitivity tests were of little value in predicting the results with phthalylsulphathiazole. No toxic reactions were found with any of the drugs used.

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