

## BOOK REVIEW

*COLORIMETRIC ANALYSIS*. Second Edition. Vol. I. Determinations of Clinical and Biochemical Significance. By Noel L. Allport and J. W. Keyser. Pp. xi + 424 (including Index). Chapman and Hall, London, 1957. 50s.

The first edition of Mr. Allport's "Colorimetric Analysis," in one volume, was published in 1945 and was an immediate success. A second impression was taken in 1947 and a third in 1951. Since the original edition, colorimetric analysis has been developed considerably and many refinements in technique have established its use in clinical and biochemical analysis.

In approaching a second edition the specialisation which had occurred in analytical methods indicated to the author that he could no longer deal single handed with such an extended field. In addition the increase in colorimetry made it impossible to compress the subject within the limits of one volume. It was therefore decided to devote the whole of the first volume of the second edition to clinical and biochemical analysis under the joint authorship of Mr. Allport and Dr. Keyser. As in the original edition all theoretical considerations of instrumental techniques have been excluded and only the analytical descriptions of chemical technique are given.

The widened scope of the new edition compared with the old is indicated by the increase in the number of pages (almost double) and by the inclusion of 98 monographs compared with about 50 in the first edition. Monographs have been much revised and extended—as an example 17-ketosteroid estimations now occupy 8 pages with 23 references instead of one and a half pages.

Although the book deals solely with colorimetric methods a general approach has been maintained and the limitations of the methods are clearly given. Thus under barbiturates it is stated that methods based on the measurement of ultra-violet absorption will generally be found to be more sensitive than existing colorimetric methods. It was just this approach which made the first edition so valuable and the retention of this critical evaluation makes it a worthy successor. The authors are to be congratulated on their work and one will await with interest the publication of the second volume.

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differentiate. Thus the 4 strains of *Lactobacillus casei* examined were distinguished by absence of detectable amounts of ornithine, serine and lysine. Distinctions could readily be made between this species and *L. plantarum*, *L. acidophilus*, *L. helveticus*, *L. arabinosus*, *L. brevis*, and *L. fermenti*. The distinction between the last two of these species was regarded as useful because they are not otherwise well defined; the well marked differences found between *Streptococcus lactis* and *S. cremoris* were considered of value for the same reason. Other organisms examined included streptococci of Lancefield groups B, C, and D, micrococci and *Leuconostoc* species. Differences between species were always definite. However, age of culture and type of medium appeared to affect the chromatogram patterns and this constituted an obvious disadvantage of the method.

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