

Some geometrical considerations concerning the design of tablets: corrigenda

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to several small errors in my paper entitled "Some geometrical considerations concerning the design of tablets" (Cleave, 1965). These are:

- p. 700, 6 lines from bottom: Suppose $l \geq d$
- p. 701, equation (6): $-24\sigma^3t^2$
- p. 701, equation (8): $+d(3G + 2D - 6d)$
- p. 701, 10 lines from bottom: $(3G + 2D)/d = 12 + \mu$
- p. 702, 3 lines from bottom: $3/31, 12/77, 3/7$

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Reference

Cleave, J. P. (1965). *J. Pharm. Pharmac.*, 17, 698-702.

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BRITISH VETERINARY CODEX 1965. Published by the direction of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Pp. xxv + 843 (including Index). The Pharmaceutical Press, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1, 1965. 105s. (U.K. postage, 3s.).

The period since the publication of the first edition of the *British Veterinary Codex* in 1953 has been marked by the introduction into veterinary practice of many new chemotherapeutic agents, and a supplement to the Codex was published in 1959 in an attempt to keep pace with the spate of drugs. The second edition of the Codex incorporates the established new remedies, and the opportunity has been taken to remove obsolete drugs and vaccines. Fifty-seven drugs and chemicals and 18 vaccines have been introduced, but the additions have been more than balanced by the deletion of over 100 drugs and chemicals and 10 vaccines. The additions include anthelmintics, antiprotozoal agents and insecticides. It is interesting to note how the development of veterinary practice is reflected in many of the inclusions. Space has been found for most of the important new antibiotics, anaesthetics, adjuncts to anaesthesia, anti-inflammatory agents and a number of diagnostic agents.

Part I of the Codex is devoted to monographs on drugs and chemicals, Part II is concerned with vaccines and sera, and Part III with new preparations. Amongst these are Depot-tablets of Cobalt Oxide, the so-called cobalt "bullet", a solid preparation containing cobalt which is given by mouth and remains in the reticulo-rumen for several months releasing small quantities of cobalt for utilisation by the rumino-micro-organism in the manufacture of vitamin B₁₂.

It is difficult to take exception to any of the inclusions. There are, however, one or two drugs now in current use which have been omitted, but no doubt the delays of publication are in part an explanation of these omissions. Although Haloxon, Dioxathion and Metriphionate have been included, other organo-phosphorus compounds seem to have an equal claim. It is unlikely that all the inclusions and deletions would satisfy everyone.

Most of the deletions are well-justified; it is surprising that many found a place in the first edition. The deletion of certain drugs has involved other

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modifications; for example, the deletion of barbitone has caused the main monograph on the barbiturates to be written under Phenobarbitone. It is encouraging to see that strychnine and its salts have at last been deleted, and it is hoped that the employment of this substance, even in the control of so-called pests and vermin, will be ended.

Each monograph takes a standard form. A description of the physical and chemical properties of the drug is followed by accounts of its actions and uses, toxicity, incompatibility, dose and the preparations available. Most of the information included under Actions and Uses is accurate and reasonably comprehensive. There are, however, a few surprising statements, such as that Thiopentone is a satisfactory anaesthetic for use in calves: many would not agree with this. It is also surprising to find no mention of the importance of the high lipid solubility of the thiobarbiturates in governing their action. In the monograph on Tubocurarine, it is stated that decamethonium and Mephesisin have similar actions. This is ambiguous and could well have been omitted, especially as decamethonium is not in the Codex. In the monographs on both Chloroform and Carbon Tetrachloride, little mention is made of the toxic effects of these drugs on the liver. This seems rather an unfortunate omission.

There is a slight inconsistency in the setting out of some of the monographs. For example, the monograph on Dimercaprol includes information about the dose under Actions and Uses. The monograph on Trimeprazine not only includes dosage with Actions and Uses, but in addition gives a separate dose in the section headed "Dose".

The second edition of the Codex contains a great deal of information not available elsewhere which will be of value not only to practising veterinary surgeons and pharmacists, but also to experimental pharmacologists. There has been over the past decade an increasing use in experimental pharmacology of animals other than cats and dogs, such as sheep and pigs, and actions and uses of most of the therapeutic agents employed in these species, as well as the dosages are included.

The second edition of the *British Veterinary Codex* is well-produced, substantially bound, and will serve as a valuable work of reference for all who have to administer drugs to animals or dispense drugs for animal treatment.

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