

## Book Review

*GADAMERS LEHRBUCH DER CHEMISCHEN TOXIKOLOGIE UND ANLEITUNG ZUR AUSMITTELUNG DER GIFTE. VOL. II. ALLGEMEINE METHODEN.* Edited by E. Graf and Fr. R. Preuss. Pp. xii + 720 (including Index). Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen, 1966. DM.198.

The second volume of the new edition of this textbook, published in German, is concerned with general methods for the recognition and determination of poisonous drugs. In sixteen papers, experts from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia describe not only techniques already in general use in toxicology, but also those discovered more recently.

Individual contributions deal with the applications of paper, thin-layer, column and gas chromatography and phase separation methods. In addition spot-test and ring-oven techniques, micro-thermal methods, absorption spectroscopy in the infrared, visible and ultraviolet ranges, spectrophotometric examination of atomic emission and absorption, optical crystallography and polarography are treated in considerable detail. Furthermore, there are sections on enzymatic methods, hetero-element detection, nuclear radiation detection and radio-activation analysis.

The systematic lay out adopted in each chapter ensures that there is a clear and concise exposition of the particular subject. After discussions of the relevant theory, experimental methods and examples of their practical applications are described in detail, so that it is not necessary to refer to the original literature in order to use the techniques. An additional and most helpful feature is the description of the relevant apparatus, together with information on where individual items may be obtained. Identification tables and procedures for systematic separation complete each section so that the book is not only a textbook but is also a useful book of reference.

The inclusion of physico-chemical methods, which have only been applied to toxicology in recent years and for which applications may still be found by further research, make this volume the most modern publication available on the subject and certainly the most interesting.

T. H. LIPPERT