

THE USE OF AN APPLE II MICROCOMPUTER IN UNDERGRADUATE, POSTGRADUATE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION TEACHING PROJECTS

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A 48 kilobyte APPLE II microcomputer with disc drive, printer and colour graphics facilities is used with BASIC and PILOT programs in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. The system is similar to that demonstrated, discussed and marketed by Hughes (1980).

Mathematical programs include curve-fitting and data optimisation programs which are of general applicability to many student experiments and can be used without any specialised knowledge of computers as the instructions appear on the screen in front of the operator. Another program gives a graphical representation of percentage ionisation of weakly acidic or basic drugs in media of changing pH e.g. gastrointestinal tract.

Verbal programs, produced as easily in BASIC as numerical ones, show how BASIC can convert drug name and dosage abbreviations into label format.

There are verbal teaching programs taking the question and answer form, in particular, a transcription of some of the questions to be answered by participants in the University of Strathclyde Continuing Education Distance Learning project for pharmacists.

Hughes, I. (1980) Pharm. J. 224: 154