

## Book Review

**Percutaneous Local Anaesthesia**  
(Ellis Horwood Series in Pharmaceutical Technology)  
David Woolfson and Dermot McCafferty  
Published 1993 Ellis Horwood, Chichester  
270 pages  
ISBN 0 13 656372 4 £65.00

Drs Woolfson and McCafferty have considerable experience in the development and testing of percutaneous local anaesthetic preparations. A source book containing detailed pharmaceutical and clinical data on these formulations will be a valuable addition to the Pharmaceutical Libraries of institutions interested in this area. The book is probably too detailed to appeal to most postgraduate medical specialists, who are more likely to accept or reject the local anaesthetic formulations on the basis of personal experience rather than by reading this book.

The authors have described their own studies, which have already been published, and building on this basis they have expanded the book to include some discussion of pain pathways,

assessments of experimental and clinical pain, and the pharmacology of some local anaesthetic drugs. An excessive number of tables and figures have been reproduced from other works. The section on experimental pain would have been improved if it had clearly differentiated between methods useful to detect analgesic activity and those to detect local anaesthetic activity. The pharmacology is a little dated with the exception of the areas particularly studied by the authors. In addition there is some confusion concerning the cardiovascular actions of the aminoamide local anaesthetics, probably due to a typographical error.

The clinical applications of the techniques have been painstakingly described. However, one is left with the impression that it could all have been summarized in a Table with a few succinct conclusions at the end.

Despite these shortcomings, the book had some interesting comments and information and will make a useful reference book.

BARBARA PLEUVRY  
UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER, UK

## Book Review

**Chromatography of Pharmaceuticals. Natural, Synthetic and Recombinant Products**  
(ACS Symposium Series No. 512)  
Edited by Satinder Ahuja  
Published 1992 American Chemical Society, Washington, DC  
240 pages  
ISBN 0 8412 2498 6 \$59.95

This volume represents the proceedings of a symposium sponsored by the Division of Analytical Chemistry of the American Chemical Society in August 1991. The contents page lists some 15 articles which cover a broad range of topics from general considerations on chromatography and pharmaceutical analysis to more specific topics such as the determination of a new cephalosporin in biological fluids. Most of the major separation techniques are covered (HPLC, GLC, chiral HPLC, prep., CE etc.) to some degree. The volume has been compiled from camera ready manuscripts which as always implies a balance between speed of publication and quality of the final product. Certainly the standard of reproduction of some of the figures leaves something to be desired. The very broad range of topics

random selection that one usually finds in a journal rather than an integrated work. Whilst there is certainly information contained in the papers that will be of interest to workers in the various fields covered I cannot identify any particular group for whom this volume will prove invaluable.

My major criticism of the copy which I had to review is not of the content but rather the lack of it. Specifically the contents page of the book claims that it should have a minimum of 15 articles and 205 pages. The review copy in fact stopped at page 182, halfway through the article by Amari and Brown (on preparative separations of glycerophospholipids by HPLC). Whilst the paper used for the volume apparently meets the "minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials" (ANSI Z39.48-1984) the printers clearly don't! Hopefully this will have been rectified by the publishers by now, but it does not inspire confidence in the product.

Overall, whilst interesting, this is probably a book for the library rather than for the office.

I. D. WILSON  
ZENECA PHARMACEUTICALS, UK

## Book Review

**The New Macrolides, Azalides, and Streptogramins Pharmacology and Clinical Applications**  
(Infectious Disease & Therapy Series/8)  
Edited by Harold C. Neu, Lowell S. Young and Stephen H. Zinner  
Published 1993 Marcel Dekker Inc., New York  
xix + 228 pages  
ISBN 0 8247 9038 3 \$115.00

For 25 years after their introduction into clinical practice the only macrolide to be used consistently, world-wide, was erythromycin, particularly in the penicillin-sensitive patient. However, the discovery of *Legionella* in the 1970s, and a better understanding of the pathogenesis and treatment of infections due to

*Mycoplasma* and *Chlamydia* have caused a surge of interest in the development of these and like compounds. This volume in the Infectious Disease and Therapy series seeks to give a detailed consideration of the chemistry and structure-activity relationships that are important in improving the antibacterial activity and pharmacology of macrolides. In this respect the chemistry is sparse and poorly illustrated and the book cannot be recommended for the instruction or inspiration it will give medicinal chemists. However, the editors also seek to provide an in-depth consideration of the possible clinical uses of these new compounds. In this they succeed, but the price to benefit ratio of the book is still not good.

R. J. PINNEY  
THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, LONDON, UK