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BOOK REVIEW

Blood Drugs and Other Analytical Challenges, E. Reid, Editor, John Wiley & Sons, Somerset, N.J., 1978, 355 pp., Cloth \$47.50, Vol. 7 in the series Methodological Surveys in Biochemistry.

The measurement of trace organics in biological fluids and other difficult matrices has provided a challenge (and a source of consternation) to the analytical chemist for some time now. This compilation makes considerable progress towards dispelling the "consternation" aspect of analysis by addressing the philosophy or rationale of a methodology rather than "cookbooking" a list of specific compounds. The editor has also omitted pharmacologic data in an effort to tailor the source material for the analyst, thereby greatly increasing the information density.

The book is divided into five major sections entitled: The Framework; Subtle Gas Chromatography; Mass Spectrometric Approaches; HPLC, TLC and Non-chromatographic Approaches; Notes and Comments.

The Framework includes six excellent articles discussing the rationale of various analytical approaches, pitfalls of various forms of standardization, statistical design in analysis, and a plea for authors to standardize their use of nomenclature and define their use of terms and statistics in the literature.

The following three sections contain articles by recognized authorities in their fields as well as case histories to illustrate specific method development.

The final section, Notes and Comments, contains twelve articles, mostly case histories as well as comments and questions addressed by one author to another about his work. Comments, such as those made by Dr. Frigerio in regards to the Seveso toxicology study, show remarkable concern for safety and thoroughly conducted scientific research under difficult circumstances. The information density and insight provided by this section make it both enjoyable and valuable.

The major weakness in the text is in the proofing and presentation of figures. Duplication of entire paragraphs within an article, misspelling of major titles, and almost unreadable hand-overwritten tables detracted markedly from enjoyment of the text. Dr. Reid's usage of a specimen assay protocol form in the Framework section is typical of inclusion material which would have been more valuable if

readable. Large numbers of the chromatograms throughout the text are unreadable. While the general format of the text is informal, handwritten tables and over-written typeface seem out of place when compared to the accompanying enjoyable, informative text.

The editor's goal, as stated in the preface, is to encourage presentation of analytical rationale rather than recipes. The editor has succeeded admirably, with forty articles full of wisdom, learned on the hard path of experience. The written style of the contributors is relaxed and open, revealing their limitations as well as their successes. If the reader can tolerate the poor figures and tables he will be rewarded with a text which will provide hours of enjoyment and provocative thought.

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