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The Book Corner

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THE BOOK CORNER

The Journal of Liquid Chromatography is pleased to announce the initiation of "The Book Corner." In this section information about books in the field of separation science which are of interest to our readers will be published. This will include reviews and/or information about current books, listing the book title, author (editor), publisher, cost, table of contents, and any helpful information.

It is hoped that "The Book Corner" will aid our readers in keeping current with published books in their field of interest, and will also help them decide which books should be purchased for their daily reference and use.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHROMATOGRAPHY, TECHNIQUES AND APPLICATIONS, Hernan J. Cortes, ed., Chromatographic Science Series, Volume 50 (series editor: Dr. Jack Cazes), Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, 1990.

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ANALYTICAL ARTIFACTS, GC, MS, HPLC, TLS AND PC, Brian S. Middleditch, Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1989, 1034 pp., US\$260.50.

There is a veritable plethora of pitfalls waiting to pounce upon novice and experienced scientist alike. Many keep a file of data relating to artifacts; this new volume contains the author's own analytical indiscretions and a compilation of those gleaned from the literature.

It is appropriate, here, to cite some examples of problems that are included in Analytical Artifacts:

- Many analysts realize that they should use glass rather than plastic containers, but few would anticipate the appearance of plasticizer residues on glass ware washed with detergent from a plastic container.

- A recent article in a respected journal claimed that the identity of the pheromone emitted by bitches in season to attract male dogs had been determined. They actually detected a widely-used antimicrobial agent.

- Someone once discovered (to his consternation) that skin oils collected from his forehead contained estrogens (female sex hormones). He was relieved to discover that they were from the hand lotion of the technician who swabbed his skin.

This volume contains a wealth of similar cautionary tales told in the hope that others can profit from these misadventures. It is dedicated to the innumerable scientists who made mistakes, used impure chemicals and solvents, suffered the consequences of unanticipated side-reactions and were otherwise exposed to mayhem, yet were not too embarrassed to publish their findings.

It is recommended reading for all scientists, with only one word of caution. Although this volume is "good reading," its organization leaves much to be desired. Attempts to locate specific types of artifacts will be frustrated by the absence of a good, usable index, with stories listed by logical categories. Nevertheless, it should be on everyone's desk.

Reviewed by
Dr. Jack Cazes

MERCK INDEX, Susan Budavari, ed., 11th Edition (Centennial Edition), Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, New Jersey, 1989.

The Merck Index, an internationally recognized chemical/biomedical encyclopedia, celebrates a century of commitment to chemistry with this 100th anniversary edition.. First published in 1889 as a catalog of chemical agents available from Merck, the book has become an authoritative reference on chemicals, drugs and biologicals.

The eleven editions of the Merck Index chronicle the progress and expansion of chemistry and the biomedical sciences for the last century. Changes in the content and character of the volume, including the introduction of features that remain unique, were made with each edition to better meet the needs and interests of the expanding diverse scientific audience for the Index. Guiding every change has been the commitment to the originally stated purpose . . . "to provide, for all who have to do with medicinal and chemical matters, one handy volume, as a ready means of quickly and reliably answering questions of fact that may arise in any direction, in the midst of their work." The latest edition certainly continues to meet this goal.

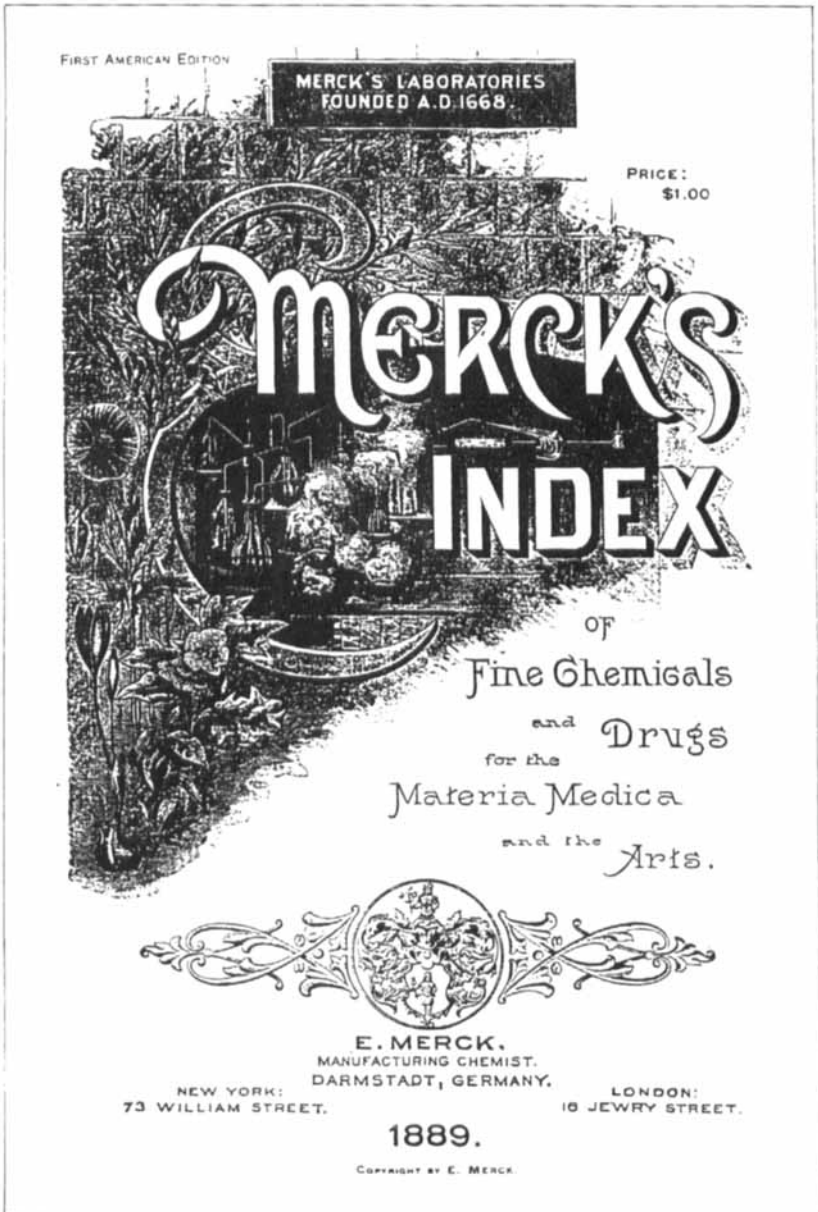
Points of interest in the eleventh edition include:

- diagrams of chemical formulas and their therapeutic uses,
- list of chemical company names, addresses and trademarks,
- radioactive isotopes used in medical therapy and diagnosis,
- listing of many herbicides and pesticides,
- chemicals used in treatment of AIDS,
- biochemical abbreviations,
- therapeutic category biological activity index,
- universal conversion factors,
- cross index of chemical, trivial and generic names.

This volume should be on the desk of every chemical and biomedical scientist and practitioner.

Reviewed by
Dr. Jack Cazes

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