Science Citation Index. Institute for Scientific Information, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106. 1961. $700. 1964. 5 Vol. 2600 pp. 24.5 × 30 cm. $1250 for some libraries and individuals, $1950 for others.

This is a massive undertaking, at a price only few individuals and large libraries will be able to afford, to take individual interpretation out of the indexing and the reading of literature abstracts. By comparing references to a given paper in virtually all major scientific journals of every hue, a system has been developed by which all borders between doctrines are being crossed, and the reader is given a quick glance at the impact of one author's work on the thoughts of other scientists. Looking up, for example, the name and journal reference to a given paper, the searcher will find in the same entry preceding articles by the same author quoted as previous art, as well as the papers by all other authors who have quoted the first investigator's work in their own research publications. Thus, perspective is gained, and the original reference to be looked up becomes more significant as reflected by the ideas it has stimulated in others. How would you like to look up a paper in a journal of dairy science and discover that some physical properties of milk have been based on a viscosity equation developed 53 years earlier by Einstein and, furthermore, that the idea of utilizing this equation was advanced by the application of the Einstein equation to such varied topics as intrinsic velocity, the size and shape of micelles, the properties of the protoplasm of amoebae, and the calculation of atomic dimensions?

No other indexing system makes possible the cross-fertilization of the sciences as does the present series. In medicinal chemistry, where progress can be achieved only by a confluence of many doctrines, this citation index will be especially welcome. And finally, patent searches will be facilitated considerably by uncovering cases in unrelated areas which may have a bearing on the case in question.

The main disadvantage of this index work—apart from its forbidding cost—is the very fine print which, in a prolonged search, will make the use of a magnifying glass imperative.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA ALFRED BURGER
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Progress in Drug Research. Volume 6. Edited by E. JUCKER. Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, Switzerland. 1963. 17 × 24.5 cm. 423 pp. Swiss Fr. 108

It is a pleasure to see the scientific standards of this important series rise from volume to volume. The present book presents four monograph-type reviews, each complete, critical, and carefully prepared. Only the fifth chapter, New Drugs, by W. Kunz retains the noncritical attitude of similar previous reviews on recent drugs. It is a compilation of new clinical and experimental drugs, many of which have not been approved for general practice, the opinions of some companies notwithstanding.

The four outstandingly good chapters are Drug Metabolism (J. R. Gillette), Indole Compounds (R. V. Heinzelman and J. Szmuszkovicz), Spectrofluorometry in Pharmaceutical Chemistry (H. G. Leemann, K. Stich, and M. Thomas), and Biologically Active Terpenoids (M. Martin-Smith and T. Khatoon). Gillette's article on drug metabolism and the enzymatic mechanisms involved in these processes should supersede all other reviews on this subject. It refutes the view held by many medicinal chemists that the largely detoxifying metabolic pathways have little bearing on the intrinsic activity of drugs, and cannot be used widely in the structural design of medicinal agents. In fact, unless the latest findings in demethylations and oxidative changes of drugs are taken into account, the planning and understanding of much new work on standard structural types of drugs will be in error. From this point of view alone, this review will raise the scientific stature of medicinal chemistry considerably.

The comprehensive review of indole compounds as actual or potential therapeutics leans heavily on hydroxytryptamine analogs, structural fragments of LSD, and of polycyclic indole alkaloids. Both the organic chemist and the pharmacologist will find much stimulating information in this chapter.

The long survey of fluorescence spectra covers innumerable tables of almost any type of organic compound that has attracted medicinal interest. Equally comprehensive is the review of terpenoids as far as the medicinal chemistry is concerned. This field, long neglected, should have a renaissance under the impact of this timely and searching re-examination.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA ALFRED BURGER
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Chelation Therapy. By ALFRED SOFFER, MAYNARD CHENOWETH, GUNTHER EICHHORN, BETTY ROSOFF, MARTIN RUBIN, and HERTA SPENCER. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill. 1964. 151 pp. $8.00.

The largest single contribution comprising about 2/5 of this short multi-authored volume is an article by Rubin on chelation in clinical problems of iron metabolism. Two more articles each take up about 1/5 of the book. Spencer and Rosoff discuss the use and untoward effects of chelating agents such as EDTA and DTPA (diethylenetriaminepentaacetate) in radioisotope excretion of yttrium, zinc, and strontium. Soffer writes about chelation therapy and effects of EDTA in cardiovascular disease. The final 1/5 is composed of two short articles by Chenoweth on chelation and drug action and one article by Eichhorn on the nature of chelation. The volume appears to be well indexed.

This book mentions some of the general principles and treats certain specific instances in the complicated interrelated problems of chelation of metal ions, their transport, and cell permeation. The most general and introductory chapters appear at the end of the book. They are so short that only a superficial acquaintance of the subject is gained from reading them; better introductions are available. The longer and more detailed chapters appear to be reviews of the authors' researches appearing elsewhere in the literature. Within the limits of the brief general material and but three specific topics this book provides an interesting and expensive sampling of the field.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA R. BRUCE MARTIN
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA