Research Progress in Organic—Biological and Medicinal Chemistry. Volume I. Edited by ULISSE GALLO and LEONIDA SANTAMARIA. Societa Editoriale Farmacentica, Milano, Italy. xvi + 583 pp. 24.5 × 18 cm. $19.00.

A group of Italian investigators including such widely known names as D. Bovet, A. Ercoli, G. B. Marini Bettólo, and E. Testa present reviews of work in which they are expert. Their reviews are broad in scope, comprehensive, and documented with adequate references to the most important literature citations. They are all written in English, but oh, what English. Although, according to the preface, Mr. R. E. M. Davies of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* (London) has revised the English of some of the manuscripts, no such revision is apparent. The text abounds, in all chapters, with innumerable typographical errors and sentence structures which bespeak the inexpert translation of scientific Italian into English by nonscientists who could not spell. In addition, it is the nature of Romance languages that many more words are used to express what the more reserved Northern tongues may say more briefly. A verbatim translation from Italian into English, as it has been done in many places in the present volume, leads to linguistic absurdities which detract from attentive reading. Since this is to be the first of a series of similar review volumes, the editors would be well advised to employ native American or British chemists and medical scientists to polish the final edition of their texts.

Most of the chapters are presented factually and accurately. In several cases, reviews of a given area have been needed badly, since the excellent work of some of the authors is scattered throughout the medicinal literature of many countries. This is true of acid-soluble nucleotides of fungi (A. Ballio), tryptophan metabolism in man (C. A. Benassi), advances in physiopharmacology of synthetic curarimimetics (D. Bovet and V. Rosnati), steroid ether derivatives (A. Ercoli, R. Gardi, and G. Brunt), Italian contributions to the knowledge of South American alkaloids (G. B. Marini-Bettólo), the rifamycin antibiotics (P. Sensi), and the chemistry and pharmacology of azetidines (E. Testa, A. Wittgens, G. Maffii, and G. Bianchi). The print of the book is set unusually readably, and the paper, the illustrations, and the make-up are of excellent quality. One can welcome the appearance of this series into the growing family of periodic review volumes in our field and wish it luck.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA ALFRED BURGER
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Progress in Drug Research. Volume 7. Edited by E. JUCKER. Birkhäeuser Verlag, Basel. 1964. 477 pp. 24.5 × 17 cm. Swiss Fancs 96

The seventh volume of this now well-known and important series contains two theoretical and four more practical chapters. The two chapters on fundamental principles are Basic Mechanisms of Drug Action by D. R. H. Gourley, and The Pharmacology of Homologous Series by H. R. Ing. Both of these discussions are written in an attitude of resignation and disappointment in the fact that apparently closely related biological phenomena cannot yet be explained honestly on a unified basis. Yet both authors are aware of the impending understanding of the nature of biochemical receptors and the revolution this knowledge will yield in the interpretation of drug action on the molecular level. Whenever basic principles are expounded, striking examples are liable to be seized upon for the pertinent discussion, while many other examples, with fine nuances and differences, will not even be mentioned. This incomplete coverage of the literature is intentional in Ing's chapter who does not believe that "multiplication of examples necessarily increases understanding." Up to a point this is undoubtedly true, but the omission of widely acclaimed examples inevitably weakens the value of the conclusions presented.

The four practically oriented chapters are: Radioactive Isotopes in Drug Research (K. E. Schulte and I. Mleinek, in German), The Development of Antifertility Substances (H. Jackson), Chemotherapy of Tuberculosis (F. Trendelenburg, in German), and Aminonucleoside Nephrosis (U. C. Dubach, in German). They have strong leanings toward clinical and analytical utility, mostly with details of modes of applications. The literature is covered much more completely than in the two theoretical chapters, and on the whole these medical chapters are more compactly addressed to the expert. They are, however, readable and interesting, and represent critical surveys of chapters of great contemporary significance.

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Experimental Chemotherapy. Volume III. Chemotherapy of Bacterial Infections. Part II. Chemotherapy of Fungal, Rickettsial, and Viral Infections. Edited by R. J. SCHNITZER and FRANK HAWKING. Academic Press Inc., New York, N. Y. 1964. xviii + 647 pp. 23.5 × 16 cm. $25.00.

This is the final volume of this series of treatises and concludes a monumental effort to present the state of chemotherapy of infections diseases. It contains the antibiotics (mostly studied as antibacterial agents) and the fungal, rickettsial, and viral infections. By placing the highly effective antibiotics under the same cover with the three latter types, the relatively confused and less advanced areas of antifungal and antiviral agents and methods have been pin pointed clearly. The mode of action of the active agents has been stressed in all instances, but another volume would have to be added if many experimental drugs had been included. Thus, attention has been focussed on such widely used and widely studied agents as the penicillins, streptomycin, the tetracyclines, chloramphenicol, the macrolides, the polymyxin group, ristocetin, vancomycin, novobiocin, and paromomycin. Enzyme profiles of microorganisms and urease inhibitors in chemotherapy, and nonspecific antiinfectious drugs form chapters of special interest.

The large group of distinguished contributors has held the discussion on a high scientific level, yet with adequate practical therapeutic overtones. The editors have achieved more uniformity and avoided more duplication than in the previous volumes.

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