

Book Reviews

The Chemistry of Natural Products. Volume VI, The Chemistry of the Vitamins. By S. F. DYKE. Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, N. Y. 1965. x + 363 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. \$10.00.

In his third contribution to the growing series, "The Chemistry of Natural Products," S. F. Dyke provides an up-to-date comprehensive review of the organic chemistry of vitamins. In addition to currently accepted members of the group such as those of the vitamin B complex, ascorbic acid, and the fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E, and K, the author has included chapters on lipoic acid, the essential fatty acids, and *meso*-inositol. According to the preface, the author sought to treat the subject largely on chemical grounds and to take an occasional brief excursion into biochemistry where appropriate. By doing so, he has produced a fitting companion for the other volumes of this series but, on the basis of the direction of emphasis being given to vitamins today, the need for such a restricted treatment might be challenged.

Approximately 80% of the manuscript is devoted to a review of the elucidation of structure, synthesis, and reactions of the vitamins. These sections are well written and profusely illustrated with structural formulas and flow charts, printed whenever possible on the page facing the appropriate text to provide maximum reader assistance. This useful device of printing text on the left-hand page and corresponding graphic aids on the right-hand page might have been further improved by the occasional use of a few well-placed rules to delineate the several groups of illustrations on a given page. This, however, is a minor criticism. Also in the sections on structure determination are plots of ultraviolet absorption spectra of the parent vitamin and key degradation products. Following the sections on synthesis are briefer discussions of unique chemical reactions of the compound. By and large, these sections are the strong point of the book.

The sections devoted to biochemistry are modest in length and scope and are written from an organic chemical rather than biochemical point of view. The treatment is generally restricted to a brief summary of the biosynthetic pathway and a discussion of the metabolic role of the vitamin in its coenzyme form. Here too, maximum reader assistance is provided in the form of flow charts and plots of ultraviolet absorption spectra. The usefulness of these sections is limited by their brevity.

A short introductory chapter summarizes the nomenclature of vitamins, and the individual chapters offer one-or-two sentence paragraphs on the topics of occurrence, deficiency disease, and daily requirement.

Over-all, the book is accurate, reasonably documented, and well written, and the printing, illustrations, and binding are excellent. Literature citations are found alphabetically arranged at the end of each chapter; there is a modest subject index but no author index.

This book will find a limited audience because of the predominant organic chemical treatment of a field currently more concerned with biochemistry and physiological chemistry. However, it is a welcome addition to "The Chemistry of Natural Products" and should be warmly received by those primarily interested in organic chemistry.

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ARTHUR F. WAGNER

Animals Parasitic in Man. By GEOFFREY LAPAGE. Revised Edition. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, N. Y. 1963. 320 pp with 81 illustrations. 13.5 × 21.5 cm. \$1.85.

This book, written for the layman, medical student, physician, biologist, and chemist, is a well-balanced account of the various animal parasites that affect man. The text is organized on a biological basis and includes chapters on: (I) what is a parasite; (II) the kinds of parasites; (III and IV) parasites with direct life cycles such as intestinal protozoa and intestinal nematodes;

(V and VI) parasites with one intermediate host such as intestinal and liver flukes, blood flukes, filarial worms, and some tapeworms; (VII) parasites with two intermediate hosts such as the fish tapeworm and some liver, intestinal, and lung flukes; (VIII) malarial parasites; (IX) trypanosomes; (X) parasites which live in or on the skin such as leeches, insects, ticks, and mites; (XI) structural and physiological changes that parasites have undergone; and (XII) tissue reactions, immunity, and control of parasites.

Organization of the book on a biological basis rather than a taxonomic one is stimulating but may cause some confusion in comparing related organisms with dissimilar life histories. Very little information on chemotherapy is included.

The book is well written in a nontechnical fashion which makes it very easy to read. The illustrations are good as is the index. For those interested in a very readable description of the principles of parasitology and the biology of parasites causing disease in man, this inexpensive book can be highly recommended.

PARKE, DAVIS AND CO.
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

J. ALLAN WAITZ

International Series of Monographs on Child Psychiatry. Volume III. Drug Addiction in Youth. Edited by ERNEST HARMS. Pergamon Press Ltd., London. 1965. xviii + 210 pp.

In this the third of a series of monographs on child psychiatry the editor has undertaken to present information on all the major aspects of juvenile (up to 20 years of age) drug addiction and to summarize the present status of our knowledge in this area. With the aid of 14 able contributors of practical experience in dealing with drug-dependent adolescents, he has succeeded reasonably well in presenting a total, if sketchy, picture. Particularly interesting, informative, and intelligible to almost all readers are the chapters on Drug Addiction in Greater New York (Ernest Harms), Development of Narcotics Addiction among the Newborn (Theodore Rosenthal, Sherman W. Patrick, and Donald C. Krug), Marihuana Use by Young People (Charles Winick), "Psychopathology" of Narcotic Addiction: A New Point of View (Lonnie Macdonald), Institutional Treatment of the Juvenile Narcotics User (Sherman W. Patrick), The Withdrawal Treatment of Addicts (Marie Nyswander), Group Therapy with Adolescent Addicts (Stanley Einstein and Ferdinand Jones), A Short History of Narcotics Anonymous, Inc. (Sherman W. Patrick), After-Care Rehabilitation (Leon Brill), Adolescent Addiction and Religion (Lynn Hageman), and Addiction Research Program in Puerto Rico (Sherman W. Patrick). Those chapters on Psychological Characteristics of the Adolescent Addict (David Laskowitz), Authority among Adolescent Drug Addicts (Stanley Einstein and David Laskowitz), Future Time Perspective of the Adolescent Narcotic Addict (Stanley Einstein), and A Comparison of the Rohrschach Behavior of Adolescent Addicts who Have Died of an Overdose with Addict Controls (David Laskowitz and Ferdinand Jones), will be of interest to a select and specialized group, principally psychologists and psychiatrists. The chapter, Inhalation of Commercial Solvents: A Form of Deviance Among Adolescents (Donald C. Krug, Jacob Sokol, and Ingvar Nylander), does not seem to belong in this monograph, as it has little, if any, relevance to drug dependence of the morphine type as do all other contributions.

The pessimism and complaints of lack of cooperation from "official American administrative and research circles" expressed by the editor in the introduction and again in the last chapter (Summary and Outlook), while perhaps justified, detract some from the value and intrigue of the book. It is unfortunate, too, that the World Health Organization recommended terminology of *drug dependence* of this or that type [N. B. Eddy, H. Halbach, H. Isbell, and M. H. Seevers, *Bull. World Health Organ.*, **32**, 721 (1965)] could not be substituted for addiction habituation, etc., terms that are used rather loosely.

The editor's dissatisfaction with the incompleteness of the material presented, his hope of providing the stimulus for a more thorough effort with the aim of determining the roots of the