Impact of Basic Sciences on Medicine. Edited by B. SHAPIRO and M. PRYWES, with 44 contributors. Academic Press Inc., New York and London. 1966. viii + 328 pp. 23 × 17 cm. $14.95.

International symposia are now almost always formalized in book form; the present volume contains the proceedings of a meeting held in Jerusalem on the occasion of the dedication of the Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical School. Most of the speakers, whose group photograph graces the frontispiece, are world-renowned figures in experimental medicine and basic medical sciences. With only a few exceptions, they have edited and polished their lectures and converted them to readable and well-documented reviews of areas which leave the reader on the very brink of a breathtaking scientific future. It is the kind of book that evokes speculation, provokes argument, and makes even the most critical reader glad that we live in this time of exciting biomedical discovery and development.

The 30 topics of the symposium extend from organic biochemistry to surgery, from virology to enzyme fine structure. Outstanding contributions to be found are E. Lederer's review of C-methylations, D. E. Green's up-to-date and searching discussion of membrane biochemistry, R. Levine's presentation of the modes of action of hormones, W. H. Stein's report on ribonuclease, and P. Handler's view of the evolution of the enzyme phosphoglucomutase. These are but a few examples of timely subjects. The whole symposium may well serve as an educational tool for those of us who strive to comprehend the underlying unity of biological processes but are bewildered by the steady unfolding of the variety of details in medical science.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA ALFRED BURGER
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Handbook of Fluorescence Spectra of Aromatic Molecules. By ISADORE B. BERLMAN. Academic Press Inc., New York, N. Y. 1966. viii + 258 pp. 15 × 22.5 cm. $8.50.

Despite widespread application of scintillation detectors, the actual phenomenon (*i.e.*, fluorescence) which makes them useful is only incompletely understood. This small monograph is, according to the author's Preface, "an experimentalist's approach to the understanding of luminescence phenomena," and is the first general treatment to become available.

An introductory historical section (the consistent misspelling of "fluorescein" was distracting) and a very clear description of the phenomena involved precede description of the measurements obtained and their interpretation. The major part of the volume is taken up by graphs representing absorption and fluorescence curves of 102 aromatic compounds, including most of the commonly used organic scintillators. All of the measurements reported were made in the author's laboratory.

With each graph are given, in addition to the conditions of measurement (solvent, concentration, excitation wavelength, etc.), data such as fluorescence decay time, fluorescence quantum yield, natural lifetime, Stokes loss, and average and center-of-gravity wavelengths of the absorption and fluorescence spectra.

A reader seeking introduction to certain phases of the research will find valuable a group of topical bibliographies, each of which, though necessarily incomplete, furnishes useful leading references.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY LEONARD E. BRADY
NORMAL, ILLINOIS

Synthetic Methods of Organic Chemistry. Volume 20. By W. THEILHEIMER. Verlag S. Karger A.-G., Basel. 1966. xiv + 740 pp. 15.5 × 22.5 cm. Swiss Fr. 246 ($60.04)

This is the final volume of the fourth series of this monumental work which has become a household word for organic chemists. It contains a cumulative index to Volumes 16–20, and in the body of the text, all reaction titles of these volumes. This reduces a five-volume search to one in a single volume. Equally valuable is a five-page survey of trends in synthetic methods during the current year; many innovations in the use of reagents, catalysts, and techniques which appeared in the literature in 1965–1966 are listed, and facilitate the reader's orientation about the latest aids in his synthetic work.

As in preceding volumes, print and make-up of the book are good, and its price is almost prohibitively high.

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