

Advances in Pharmacology. Volume 4. Edited by SILVIO GARRATTINI and PARKHURST A. SHORE. Academic Press Inc., New York and London. 1966. viii + 390 pp. 23.5 × 16 cm. \$16.00.

This volume contains five reviews covering the literature through 1965, *i.e.*, Hypotensive Peptides: bradykinin, kallidin, and eledoisin, by E. G. Erdős; Uricosuric Drugs, with special reference to probenecid and sulfapyrazone, by A. B. Gutman; Synthetic Antiinflammatory Drugs: concepts of their mode of action, by R. Domienjcz; Biochemistry of Drug Oxidation and Reduction by enzymes in hepatic endoplasmic reticulum, by J. P. Gillette; and Experimental and Clinical Chemoteratogenesis, by R. L. Cahen. All these topics are treated in depth and their scope, biochemically oriented, goes well beyond that of other reviews on the same subjects. Even the most biologically biased article on teratogenesis makes good and understandable reading for chemists. Indeed, it is the first survey on teratogenesis this reviewer has seen which discusses the field, its history, and its outlook dispassionately and quotes references accurately, giving credit to scientific findings and deleting journalistic and administrative implications. The editors have carefully checked chemical nomenclature and formulas which so often are treated loosely by biologists. Authors and subject indexes are excellent and remarkably free of errors.

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ALFRED BURGER

Drug Abuse: Escape to Nowhere. A Guide for Educators.

Published by Smith Kline and French Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pa., for the National Education Association, Washington, D.C. 1967. 104 pp + a drug abuse reference chart. 15 × 23 cm. Paperback, \$2.00.

Realizing the increasing spread of the abuse of psychopharmacological pure and botanical drugs especially among young people, a leading manufacturer of amphetamines and barbiturates has published this small book as a guide for teachers, educators, and counsellors who might turn their young wards back from a path of mental and the often ensuing criminal consequences of their drug habits. The book traces the history of drug abuse, addiction, and habituation. It recommends methods of rehabilitation and therapy and shows how the educator can deal with the drug abuser at different age levels and identify him. Even a glossary of slang terms is included. The drug abuse reference chart should simplify many tasks of the educator and give him an understanding of the underlying problems of the victim of drug abuse.

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ALFRED BURGER

Two New Books on the Studies of Plants and Plant Products:

1. **Useful Plants of Brazil.** By WALTER B. MORS and CARLOS T. RIZZINI. Holden-Day Inc., San Francisco, Calif. 1966. xiii + 166 pp. 14.8 × 23.5 cm. \$10.00. 2. **A Textbook of Pharmacognosy.** By G. E. TREASE and W. C. EVANS. 9th ed, Baillière, Tindall and Cassell, London. 1966. viii + 821 pp. 14.5 × 21.5 cm. \$14.50.

The chemist with an interest in botanical drugs will find both of these books useful. Both give an historical background of their stated purpose, offer help in taxonomy and botanical nomenclature, and carry extensive descriptive material on the plants and their processing. The small book on Brazilian plants classifies the bioclimatic conditions of that country and relates them to the habitat of its economic plants. Since not all economic plants contain materials useful in medicine, only a limited amount of the information in this book is of direct interest to readers of this journal. Nevertheless, one's view will be broadened by learning about the rubber tree, dye plants, and useful and ornamental woods.

The textbook by Trease and Evans, in this 9th edition, has placed more emphasis on phytochemistry, biosynthetic pathways of medicinal plant products, modern methods of isolation and assay, and the analysis of these substances. The cultivation of medicinal plants, plant genetics, vegetable drugs, and a short

section on animal products of use in medicine hold prominent places in the descriptive sections. The level of presentation swings from one for beginners to pages which are complex and have to be read over to be grasped.

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ALFRED BURGER

Advances in Alicyclic Chemistry. Volume 1. Edited by HAROLD HART and G. J. KARABATSOS, Department of Chemistry, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Academic Press Inc., New York, N. Y. 1966. x + 395 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. \$16.50.

This series is intended by its editors to serve research workers in organic chemistry with critical reviews of topics of current interest presented within the general framework of alicyclic chemistry. The series will, however, be of value to all, in that the results of research efforts in this area achieve currency in such diverse fields as natural products, organic photochemistry, conformational and strain effects on reaction rates, and the nature of carbon bonding orbital hybridization.

Volume 1 consists of five chapters which vary in length from 25 pages (Photochemistry of Tropolones by K. F. Koch) to 126 pages (Cyclohexadienones by A. J. Waring). The other three chapters, Bicyclo[*n*.1.1]alkanes and Related Tricyclic Systems by J. Meinwald and Y. C. Meinwald (50 pages), Cyclopropenes by G. L. Closs (78 pages), and Bridgehead Reactivity by R. C. Fort, Jr., and P. von R. Schleyer (87 pages), are the best in the book. These chapters are significant contributions to the literature of organic chemistry in that the authors not only have coordinated and presented the facts in a coherent fashion but have offered original suggestions regarding their interpretation.

The chapter by Professor Koch suffers from the restrictions imposed on its content. As a result, much of the material is concerned with structure proof of the photoproducts and includes at one point duplicate presentation, both in narrative and tabular form, of some rather straightforward nmr spectra. In the reviewer's opinion this topic would better be included either as part of a general treatment of tropolone chemistry or of photochemistry of medium-ring ketones.

This is an excellent first volume in what promises to be an excellent series. The relatively high cost may limit its distribution to libraries and researchers actively participating in some of the fields reviewed, but it should be widely read by all organic chemists because of the fundamental nature of many of the concepts which it covers. The chapter by Professors Fort and Schleyer in particular should be required reading for students studying organic reaction mechanisms at the advanced undergraduate and graduate level.

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FRANCIS A. CAREY

Russian Drug Index. Edited by STANLEY JABLONSKI. 2nd, ed. U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. iii + 384 pp. 21.5 × 28 cm. Paperback, \$2.25.

Despite the increased efforts by the World Health Organization to report adverse drug reactions and the development of information retrieval systems, many difficulties to which the first edition of the Russian Drug Index addressed itself still remain. Terminology of crude drugs and mixtures has not been standardized adequately, and language barriers have extended this problem to chemical compounds as well. Too few American scientists are familiar with the Russian language, and those who are find a lack of access to original literature sources. The present volume tries to help us in the field of drugs to overcome some of these problems. There are 1800 main entries, and 3700 cross-references to synonyms. Structural formulas have been standardized and *Chemical Abstracts* nomenclature has been introduced.

There are three main sections. The Drug Index arranges the main entries under the Anglicized Russian names, synonyms and code names, transliterated Russian names, trivial and proprietary