

active enzyme sites, but at present the most profitable one; on the way there dangle hopes of selective drugs for some therapeutic use. Since Baker has chosen enzymes concerned with the synthesis and hydrolysis of nucleotides and proteins, the complex field of antineoplastic chemotherapy may benefit soonest from these efforts.

When an organic chemist works on problems of "pure" biochemistry, he is bound to encounter objections from biochemists who have been trained at the opposite end of the working spectrum that joins the two approaches. Not all of Baker's conclusions are beyond dispute, but nobody can deny that he has instilled new zest into the study of inhibitors which was down and out 10 years ago. The book is written in the author's clear though somewhat extended style and reads well. No modern medicinal chemist who believes in the future predictability of selectivity can afford not to read and not to ponder this book.

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ALFRED BURGER

**Principles of Scientific and Technical Writing.** By JACKSON E. MORRIS. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, N. Y. 1966. xvii + 257 pp. 23.4 × 16.4 cm. \$6.95.

The foremost feature in a manuscript wanted by every editor of our crowded journals is concise and clear expression, without rambling and padding. A textbook on scientific writing may thus be expected to serve as a model of clarity and brevity of diction. The present book does everything but this; it rambles along, sidetracks the reader's attention to some witticisms or unrelated thoughts, and makes it necessary that one read over every paragraph several times to cull out the meaning of its words. Perhaps it tries to teach too much, from elementary school grammar to library research and lecture audience evaluation. The book is said to have evolved from the author's teaching at UCLA. This reviewer senses that much of the book reflects lecture notes which have not been scaled down to essentials and have not had time to ripen. Many of the chapters leave the reader confused and annoyed.

The book starts with a historical review of literature in general, from Homer (sic!) to aerospace engineers (20 pp). Even if one skips this chapter, one is then treated to Hemingway and Dr. Spock's information on baby care. Now at last comes a survey of "language," but the examples are taken *inter alia* from Egyptian and Chinese papyri, and *The New Yorker*. A whole chapter is devoted to the use of person and tense; these are important in scientific writing but could have been discussed in 2 instead of 14 pp. It goes on and on like this. One cannot escape the impression that the author wishes to teach technical expression to persons trained in literary writing. In that he has failed, and he has offered advice too diffuse to be applied by standard scientists or engineers who have to render a readable, concise, and accurate report of their work.

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**Organic Photochemistry. Volume I.** Edited by ORVILLE L. CHAPMAN, Department of Chemistry, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N. Y. 1967. xi + 339 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. \$15.75.

During the first half of this decade progress in organic photochemistry proceeded at a rate such that knowledge in the field from primary sources had far outstripped compilation and critical reviews of the data. The past few years have narrowed the gap considerably so that now texts and reviews are available which range from elementary to comprehensive treatments. This first volume of a projected series represents Marcel Dekker's

entry into the field, a potpourri of topics of varying degrees of quality, several of which are treated in other photochemistry books and reviews.

The topics are the following: "Photochemical Transformations of Cyclohexadienones and Related Compounds" by Paul J. Kropp, "Photochemical Transformations of Small-Ring Carbonyl Compounds" by Albert Padwa, "Photo-Fries Reaction and Related Rearrangements" by Virgil I. Stenberg, "Photochemistry of Troponoid Compounds" by Daniel J. Pasto, "Photochemistry of Olefins" by G. J. Fonken, "The Photocyclization of Stilbenes" by F. R. Stermitz, and "Photocycloaddition Reactions" by O. L. Chapman and G. Lenz.

Dr. Kropp is one of the most active workers in the field of cyclohexadienone photochemistry and has written a most interesting account of the work in it including a complete discussion of santonin chemistry. He has reviewed the literature carefully and critically and covered his subject from earliest observations to a lucid discussion of possible mechanisms.

On the other hand, the chapter by Professor Padwa is useful mainly as a source of literature references by virtue of the fact that Padwa exercises no selectivity whatever in his treatment of the reported facts. He treats all products, regardless of quantum or isolated yields, as being of equal importance in defining reaction paths available to photochemically excited small-ring compounds. With one exception (p 93) his discussion is devoid of any reference to either quantum yields or isolated yields of pure product. His preoccupation with speculating about mechanisms leads him to the conclusion (p 118) that photolysis of a certain class of compounds may constitute a "convenient source of singlet carbenes" and advocates "greater use of this technique in the future." This seems like a rather bold statement in view of the fact that the product formed from the hypothetical "singlet carbene" is found in 13% yield and other, less exciting, routes may be envisioned as leading to its formation.

The other chapters in the book are of generally good quality and cover the literature to 1965 or 1966 (with Addenda). The exception to this is the chapter by Professor Pasto in which none of the literature citations are later than 1963 even though some aspects of the topic may be explained in terms of the Woodward-Hoffman criteria for electrocyclic reactions put forth in 1965. This is disappointing in view of Professor Chapman's introduction in which he states that vigorous activity in the field "especially within the last five years" has established a need for critical summaries of topics in organic photochemistry.

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FRANCIS A. CAREY

**Problems in Laboratory Evaluation of Antianginal Agents.** Edited by MARTIN M. WINBURY. North-Holland Publishing Co., Amsterdam. 1967. vi + 65 pp. 15.5 × 24 cm. \$4.50.

This is part of the reports presented at an international symposium (Milan, 1965) and contains five chapters: Coronary and Peripheral Hemodynamics (R. Kadatz); Autoregulation of Coronary Blood Flow, Possible Role of Adenosine (R. M. Berne); the Role of Collateral Circulation (W. M. Fam and M. McGregor) and of Myocardial Nutritional Circulation (M. M. Winbury) in Evaluation of Antianginal Agents; and the Sympathetic Nervous System (R. G. Shanks). A rather illuminating discussion by the participants concludes this booklet.

The theme of the papers is a reevaluation of the fundamental role of drugs used in angina pectoris. The basic pharmacologist interested in the explanation of the role of cardiac drugs, and in the possible extension of such findings to new drug discovery, should find this book highly useful.

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