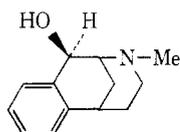


1973, Volume 16

Jon J. Fauley and Jules B. LaPidus: Synthesis and Analgetic Activity of the Diastereomeric 8-Hydroxy-6,7-benzomorphans.

Page 182. Structure 11 should be corrected to read



Dennis L. Larson and Philip S. Portoghese: Stereochemical Studies on Medicinal Agents. 12. The Distinc-

tion of Enantiotopic Groups in the Interaction of 1-Methyl-4-phenyl-4-propionoxypiperidine with Analgetic Receptors.

Page 196. Column 1, lines 18 and 21, should read (+)-14, while line 24 should read (-)-14.

Carl T. Bahner, Norma H. Bingham, David H. Brotherton, Jane Cline, Dan Darby, Harry D. Harmon, Lydia M. Rives, Bill L. Stump, Stuart L. Watson, Jr., and Thomas E. Harmon: Anticancer Compounds. Further Analogs of 1-(4-Dimethylaminobenzylidene)indene.

Page 421. The name of Thomas E. Harmon was omitted from the listing of authors.

Book Reviews

Drug Metabolism Reviews. Vol. I. Edited by Frederic J. Di Carlo with 20 contributors. Marcel Dekker, New York, N. Y. 1973. xi + 348 pp. 23 × 16 cm. \$21.50.

The text is the first volume of a series reviewing the field of drug metabolism and has been designed to be of interest to a number of different groups of readers: (1) those who are not actively working in the area of drug metabolism but are interested in learning about the recent advances and techniques that may apply to their field of interest; (2) those who have just entered or will enter actively into this field; and (3) those who are now active in a specific area of drug metabolism and would like to keep abreast of what is happening in other related areas.

Volume I starts out by discussing the importance of absorption, biotransformation, and excretion and continues with more specific drug topics and systems. It does not attempt to discuss every aspect of drug metabolism but has selected topics in specific areas involving special or new techniques and methods or areas not extensively covered in a more general text. The area of insect metabolizing systems and insecticide metabolism not extensively covered in many texts occupied a large section of this book.

Efforts by several authors to evaluate the validity of some of the techniques utilized in this area of research have realistically portrayed the difficulties and pitfalls frequently encountered. The majority of the authors have used numerous specific examples from the literature and have gone through extensive explanations of the conclusions derived from the cited data. Therefore, unlike many other reviews, an attempt to rationalize the derivations of stated conclusions was made, making its reading more enjoyable. Like most texts prepared by compiling sections written by different authors, the quality of the chapters varies from mediocre to excellent. For the most part the outlining, referencing, and content of the text are sufficient for its scope and purpose.

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Alvin N. Kotake

The Prostaglandins. Vol. 1. Edited by P. W. Ramwell. Plenum Press, New York, N. Y. 1973. 400 pp. \$29.50.

This book is the first of several volumes intended to provide in depth reviews of the broad field of prostaglandins. Much of the material presented has been reviewed previously.

The book is divided into 13 chapters prepared by 18 well-known authorities in the area. The subject matter can be divided into four categories: chemistry (15%), biosynthesis (3%), biological effects (75%), and clinical uses of prostaglandins in reproduction (5%). The biological aspects covered include autonomic neurotransmission, renal homeostasis and the hypertensive state, skin, lungs, ocular effects, cardiovascular actions, lipid metabolism, hypothalamus-pituitary-endocrine system, and gonadal function.

All of the chapters are reasonably well documented with references, and most of the chapters contain sufficient introductory and concluding or summarizing comments to be of value to individuals outside of these highly specialized areas. The chapter on "The Chemistry of Prostaglandins" contains no references beyond 1971, and, as a result, omission of the recent important contributions such as the discovery of 15(S)-PGA₂ in coral (1972) indicates that the chapter is already outdated. Those involved in synthesis may find that annual reviews (*Annu. Rep. Med. Chem.*) provide a more current treatment of the area. Because of the explosive magnitude of prostaglandin research, the reviewers feel that the book should be arranged with topics covering each of the areas of prostaglandin research in depth, followed by an annual updating of the current research publications. Most notably missing are chapters on the analysis and metabolism of prostaglandins, but presumably these will be treated in future volumes.

It is urged that a more detailed subject index be given in future volumes. The subject of structure-activity relationships is not given in the index; however, this important subject is given a section heading in Chapter 9, p 240.

A chapter which is especially well presented is the one authored by J. B. Lee on "Renal Homeostasis and The Hypertensive State: A Unifying Hypothesis." The summary of this chapter should be most useful to those interested in a casual understanding of the complex function of prostaglandins *in vivo*.

Since the major thrust of prostaglandin clinical efforts has been in the reproductive area, a separate chapter has been devoted to this subject. Clinical studies aimed at determining the potential of prostaglandins in labor induction, therapeutic abortion, and contraception through 1971 and preceding years are summarized. As stated previously for most of the other chapters, the material in this chapter is presented in more depth in other recently published material, but it will still be of value to those individuals in other areas of specialization.

Although much of the material presented in this volume is available in scattered reviews, this compendium should be useful to many in teaching and research for the background information and leading references provided. It is hoped that succeeding volumes provide an updating of the currently reviewed areas.

The Upjohn Company
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001

T. O. Oesterling, W. Morozowich

Chemotherapy of Malignant Neoplasms (2nd ed). By Fred J. Ansfield. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill. 1972. \$19.75.

This book is an elementary treatment of the subject of cancer chemotherapy which may be of use to, as the jacket says, the clinician who treats, "patients in collaboration with the physician trained in this field." It gives the author's personal experience