

a spectrophotometer set at 360 nm, and all readings were corrected for the blank. With the aid of a standard curve (obtained by running known amounts of histidylleucine through the assay procedure), the corrected optical densities were converted to nanomoles of histidylleucine formed during the 30-min incubation. IC_{50} values were determined graphically as the concentration of test drug at which the amount of histidylleucine formed was reduced to 50% of the value found in the absence of test drug. The tabulated IC_{50} values represent the average of two runs.

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Registry No. 4a, 89177-61-7; 4a (dicyclohexylamine salt), 89177-62-8; 4b, 89177-63-9; 4b (dicyclohexylamine salt), 89177-64-0; 5a, 4424-80-0; 5b, 22246-75-9; 6a, 89177-65-1; 6b, 89177-66-2; (*R*,R**)-7a, 89177-67-3; (*R*,S**)-7a, 89177-68-4; (*R*,R**)-7b, 89177-69-5; (*R*,S**)-7b, 89177-70-8; 8a, 89177-71-9; 8b, 89177-72-0; thioacetic acid, 507-09-5; ethyl chloroacetate, 105-39-5; angiotensin converting enzyme, 9015-82-1; iodomethyl phenyl sulfide, 51849-22-0.

Book Reviews

Organic Chemistry Series. Volume 3. Total Synthesis of Natural Products: The 'Chiron' Approach. By Stephen Hanessian. J. E. Baldwin, Series Editor. Pergamon Press, United Kingdom. 1983. Flexicover: XVII + 291 pp. 15 × 23 cm. ISBN 0-08-030715-9. \$20.00. Hardcover: ISBN 0-08-029247-X. \$40.00.

An appropriate alternative title to this delightful, informative, and important book could easily be "Total Synthesis of Natural Products: The 'Hanessian' Approach". An early footnote describes that "According to Greek mythology, Chiron was a wise and learned centaur who tutored Achilles, Jason, Hercules and Asclepius in music, morals and medicine". Professor Hanessian provides a similar service to the readers of this book.

The author describes the utility of suitable chiral precursors, in particular carbohydrates, which are modified into 'chirons' for transformation to the chiral target molecule. 'Chirons' are generated by the retrosynthetic approach, bearing in mind a readily available chiral starting material. The success of the retrosynthetic approach is presented schematically via intermediates and reagents for over 100 natural products. The text provides a clearly written analysis of each synthesis.

The heart of the book is divided into parts/chapters based on target molecules containing: apparent carbohydrate-type symmetry/acyclics, tetrahydrofurans, tetrahydropyrans, butyrolactones and valerolactones; partially hidden carbohydrate-type symmetry/acyclics and cyclics; and hidden carbohydrate-type symmetry/carbocyclics, heterocyclics, macrolides and ansa compounds.

The table of contents and index list the natural products discussed in the text, and references are included through the first-half of 1983. The subject matter and low flexicover price make this book a necessity for graduate courses on advanced organic synthesis and for all practicing organic chemists.

Arthur D. Little, Inc.
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140

Alan R. Branfman

Plants Used Against Cancer. Edited by Jonathan L. Hartwell. Quaterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, MA. 1982. vi + 710 pp. 16 × 24 cm. ISBN 0-88000-130-5. \$75.00.

I offer this volume as a candidate for one of the most ambitious yet thorough literature compilations of our times. Between its two covers are the reprints of 11 papers published in *Lloydia* between the years 1967 and 1971 listing virtually all that had been known concerning Man's use of plants in the treatment of con-

ditions that have been or could be construed as "cancerous". Literature citations, of which there are approximately 1000, cover the period from ca. 2900 B.C. to the mid 20th Century A.D. Arrangement is alphabetical by plant family, genus, and species (about 3000). Common names, plant parts used, preparations, and medicinal uses are tabulated. An index of genera concludes the work. While pagination of the original articles has been preserved, continuous pagination had been included as appropriate to a compilation of this size.

Those of use who have been associated with the NCI cancer-screening program since its inception and who mourn its recent passing, may treasure the volume as an historical document. Others will recognize in its pages many unsolved natural products problems.

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The Biochemical Basis of Neuropharmacology. 4th Edition.

Edited by Jack R. Cooper, Floyd E. Bloom, and Robert H. Roth. Oxford University Press, New York. 1982. x + 367 pp. 14 × 21 cm. ISBN 0-19-503094-X. \$11.50.

The 4th edition of this useful text first published in 1970 has been updated to reflect recent findings in this rapidly evolving field. This edition contains a separate chapter on neuroactive peptides and endorphins. The book is recommended to both experts in the field and to those who wish to inform themselves on the present state of neuropharmacology.

Staff

Books of Interest

A Textbook of Pharmaceutical Analysis. Third Edition. By Kenneth A. Connors. Wiley, New York. 1982. x + 664 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0471-09034-4. \$55.00.

Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology. Third Edition. Volume 24. Vitamins to Zone Refining. Edited by Martin Grayson and David Eckroth. Wiley, New York. 1984. xxvi + 917 pp. 18.5 × 26 cm. ISBN 0471-02077-X. \$185.00.