

Book Reviews

Annual Review of Pharmacology and Toxicology. Edited by Robert George, Ronald Okun, and Arthur K. Cho. Annual Reviews Inc., Palo Alto, CA. 1986. vi + 604 pp. 16 × 23 cm. ISBN 0-8243-0426-8. \$31.00.

This volume, which is the 26th in a series, covers a broad range of topics. Many of the 23 individual chapters deal with the general area of pharmacology while many deal with toxicology. As is usually the case, these review articles are written by leaders in their appropriate fields. Being a rather classically trained biochemist who dabbles in pharmacology and has difficulty in describing exactly the discipline I am engaged in, I was particularly interested in the chapter entitled "On Becoming a Pharmacologist" by the eminent British pharmacologist W. D. M. Paton. This autobiographical account by Paton, which is almost a short history of British pharmacology, describes how the "pharmacologist" may be concerned with anatomy and structure, biochemistry, physiology, chemistry, and pathology. Paton goes on to describe how pharmacology is concerned with changes in function, structure, and chemical properties of the body brought about by chemical substances. This chapter should appeal to every reader who is or has been in some way involved with pharmacological research.

Many of the chapters in this volume are descriptions of ongoing work in very active areas of research. There are, for example, excellent chapters on the regulation of cytochrome P-450 gene expression (by J. P. Whitlock, Jr.), the pharmacology and toxicology of the interferons (by G. J. Mannering and L. B. Deloria), calcium channels (by L. Hurwitz), and botulinum and tetanus toxins (by L. L. Simpson).

A quick glance at this volume is sufficient to realize that a broad range of nonrelated topics is discussed. Each of the chapters stands on its own and in no way is dependent upon any of the other chapters. It is perhaps fair to say that no one individual could adequately comprehend or be interested in more than a

fraction of the chapters. In my opinion, the real value of a work like this is that it is a very good reference to have in one's personal library. I often look up topics in a work of this type to learn something about a research area that I am not at all familiar with or only vaguely familiar with. It is with this thought that I feel that the book will be valuable to those in many different disciplines.

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Synthesis and Applications of Isotopically Labeled Compounds 1985. Proceedings of the Second International Symposium, Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A. 3-6 September 1985. Edited by R. R. Muccino. Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam. 1986. xxxiv + 558 pp. 17 × 25 cm. ISBN 0-444-42612-4. \$129.75.

The main emphasis of the symposium, which attracted 337 participants from 19 countries, was on the new applications of labeled compounds. The six plenary lectures and 101 invited papers and other selected presentations in this volume provide a valuable reference source for researchers in the field and an indication of the direction of future research.

An author and subject index are also included.

The volume will be of interest to a broad range of researchers in chemistry, pharmacology, biochemistry and the medical sciences.

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