

Book Reviews

Perspectives in Biochemistry. Volume 2. Edited by Hans Neurath. American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. 1991. xi + 317 pp. 21.5 × 27.5 cm. ISBN 0-8412-1887-0 (v. 2). \$14.95.

This is a collection of concise reviews published in *Biochemistry* in 1989 and 1990 under the heading "Perspectives in Biochemistry". These reviews were solicited from leading experts. The broad topics covered are structure and mechanism, membrane proteins and transmembrane phenomena, nucleic acids and protein biosynthesis, proteolytic processing and protein degradation, cell growth and regulation, and bioenergetics.

This collection will familiarize the general reader with the current status and future trends of topics on the cutting edge of biochemical research. It will be of special interest to students and researchers in the biochemical sciences.

Staff

Casarett and Doull's Toxicology. The Basic Science of Poisons. Fourth Edition. Edited by Mary O. Amdur, John Doull, and Curtis D. Klaassen. Pergamon Press, Inc., Elmsford, NY. 1991. xvi + 1033 pp. 18 × 26 cm. ISBN 0-08-040291-7. \$62.50.

This classic text is to toxicology what *Burger's Medicinal Chemistry* and Hansch, Sammes and Taylor's *Comprehensive Medicinal Chemistry* are to medicinal chemistry and what *Goodman and Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics* is to pharmacology. The book is divided into five units, namely "General Principles of Toxicology" (unit I), "Systemic Toxicology" (unit II), "Toxic Agents" (unit III), "Environmental Toxicology" (unit IV), and "Applications of Toxicology" (unit V). Each unit is comprised of detailed, descriptive chapters written by one or more eminent toxicologists. In all, 31 chapters are presented by 45 contributors. Each of the clearly presented up-to-date chapters is followed by a complete list of current references. An excellent subject index is also provided.

The fourth edition, like its predecessors, provides information on the many facets of toxicology and on the principles, concepts, and modes of thought that are the foundation of the discipline. It has been designed primarily as a textbook for, or an adjunct to, courses in toxicology, but all research scientists in toxicology will surely find at least some sections of interest. Research toxicologists will find this volume a useful reference source because of its updated treatment of material in their areas of special or peripheral interest. Those in the broad area of environmental health will find it of value because of the emphasis given this topic. Medicinal chemists, as well as all in the health sciences fields, will surely find this volume an excellent introduction to toxicology and a valuable reference source.

Staff

Antihormones in Health and Disease. Frontiers in Hormone Research. Volume 19. Edited by M. K. Agarwal, Karger, Basel, Switzerland. 1991. viii + 200 pp. 18 × 24.5 cm. ISBN 3-8055-5297-1. S.Fr. 200 (\$164.00, subject to change).

This volume represents the proceedings of a Satellite Symposium of the Second European Congress of Endocrinology, Ljubljana, July 7, 1991. Hormones modulate cell function by binding to specific receptors in the membrane and/or the intracellular compartment. Recent research has focused on antagonists (antihormones) of these receptors. These new antihormones have provided a novel means of investigating the molecular actions of hormones and for controlling contraception and treating hormone-dependent dysfunction. In this volume the latest developments in the field of hormone antagonists are described with emphasis on biological and clinical perspectives. The

mechanisms of action and effects of the antigluocorticoid RU 38486 (or RU 486), which was recently commercialized in France as an antiprogesterin in first-trimester pregnancy interruption, and the potential application of its dissociated parts for the treatment of hormone-dependent conditions, including breast cancer and hypertension, are a highly interesting feature of the book. Conceptually, hormone antagonists are interesting. Antiglucocorticoids and antiestrogens may oppose the action of the natural hormone independent of blockade of the receptor interaction mediated processes triggered by the native agonists.

Each of the 14 presentations is well-referenced, and a general subject index is included. The book will be of interest to a wide range of researchers, including medicinal chemists, who are concerned with molecular endocrinology.

Staff

Books of Interest

Frontiers of Organosilicon Chemistry. Edited by A. R. Bassindale and P. P. Gaspar. Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, U.K. 1991. x + 410 pp. 16 × 24 cm. ISBN 0-85186-097. £52.50.

Inositol Phosphates and Derivatives. Synthesis, Biochemistry and Therapeutic Potential. ACS Symposium Series 463. Edited by Allen B. Reitz. American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C. 1991. xii + 235 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-8412-2086-7. \$59.95.

The Psychoses of Epilepsy. By Michael R. Trimble. Raven Press, New York. 1991. xi + 210 pp. 16 × 24 cm. ISBN 0-88167-739-6. \$62.00.

Comprehensive Neurology. Edited by Roger N. Rosenberg. Raven Press, New York. 1991. xiii + 920 pp. 22 × 28.5 cm. ISBN 0-88167-717-5. \$220.00.

Advances in Neurology. Volume 55. Neurobehavioral Problems in Epilepsy. Edited by Dennis B. Smith, David M. Treiman, and Michael R. Trimble. Raven Press, New York. 1991. xx + 485 pp. 19 × 24 cm. ISBN 0-88167-714-0. \$135.00.

Drug Development and Evaluation. 16. The Significance of N-Nitrosation of Drugs. Edited by G. Eisenbrand, G. Bozler, and H. v. Nicolai. Gustav Fischer Verlag, New York. 1990. xv + 290 pp. 15.5 × 23 cm. ISBN 0-89574-319-1. \$70.00.

Jablonski's Dictionary of Syndromes and Eponymic Diseases. Second Edition. By Stanley Jablonski. Robert E. Krieger Publishing Company, Inc., Melbourne, FL. 1991. ix + 665 pp. 21.5 × 27 cm. ISBN 0-89464-224-3. \$99.50.

Improving Safety in the Chemical Laboratory. A Practical Guide. Second Edition. Edited by Jay A. Young. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. 1991. xxii + 406 pp. 16.5 × 24 cm. ISBN 0-471-53036-0. \$75.00.

GABA-B Receptors in Mammalian Function. Edited by N. G. Bowery, H. Bittiger, and H.-R. Olpe. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. 1990. xviii + 442 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-471-92461-X. \$116.00.

Data Collection Forms in Clinical Trials. By Bert Spilker and John Schoenfelder. Raven Press, Inc., New York. 1991. xv + 672 pp. 22.5 × 29 cm. ISBN 0-88167-759-0. \$90.00.

Molecular Basis of Neurological Disorders and Their Treatment. Edited by J. W. Gorrod, O. Albano, E. Ferrari, and S. Papa. Routledge, Chapman and Hall, New York. 1991. xii + 337 pp. 18.5 × 24 cm. ISBN 0-412-40410-9. \$125.00.

Cholinesterases: Structure, Function, Mechanisms, Genetics, and Cell Biology. Proceedings of the Third International Meeting on Cholinesterases. Edited by J. Massoulie, F. Bacou, E. Barnard, A. Chatonnet, B. Doctor, and D. Quinn. American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. 1991. xviii + 414 pp. 18.5 × 26 cm. ISBN 0-8412-2008-5. \$89.95.

Biochemistry and Physiology of Thiamin Diphosphate Enzymes. Proceedings of the International Meeting on the Function of Thiamin Diphosphate Enzymes, held in Blaubeuren, October 1990. Edited by H. Bisswanger and J. Ullrich. VCH Publishers, Inc., New York. 1991. xxii + 453 pp. 17.5 × 24.5 cm. ISBN 1-56081-142-0. \$158.00.

Cell Separation Science and Technology. ACS Symposium Series 464. Edited by Dhinakar S. Kompala and Paul Todd. American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. 1991. ix + 301 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-8412-2090-5. \$34.95.

Enzymes in Carbohydrate Synthesis. ACS Symposium Series 466. Edited by Mark D. Bednarski and Ethan S. Simon. American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. 1991. xi + 131 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-8412-2097-2. \$69.95.

Stress and Adaptation. By Elemer Endröczi. Akademiai Kiado Publishing House, Budapest, Hungary. 1991. x + 180 pp. 17 × 24.5 cm. ISBN 963-05-5834-3. \$29.99.