Book Reviews

Target Receptors for Anxiolytics and Hypnotics: From Molecular Pharmacology to Therapeutics. Edited by J. Mendlewicz and G. Racagni. Karger, Basel. 1992. vi + 162 pp. 17 × 24 cm. ISBN 3-8055-5602-0. $140.00.

This volume is the third in a series of symposia organized by the International Academy for Biomedical and Drug Research (Monte Carlo, November 1991). As indicated by the title, this conference brought together a small group of industry, academic, and clinical scientists to discuss anxiety and sleep disorders as well as current approaches to treatment.

The book consists of 14 chapters (5–10 pages each), and 2 panel discussions. Broadly, though not explicitly divided into 2 sections, Chapters 1–9 describe the molecular, clinical, and social aspects of anxiety and related disorders. Subjects covered include the molecular biology of the GABA/benzodiazepine receptor, the role of 5HT receptors in anxiogenesis, the development of new animal models to identify anxiolytics and several chapters on clinical practice and problems. Following an intervening panel discussion on the medical and social impact of anxiety and insomnia, the final five chapters deal with the physiology, pharmacology, and treatment strategies for sleep disorders. In this reviewer's mind, the second portion of the book was of more relevance since the study of sleep disorders, now recognized to afflict a significant portion of the population, has until recently been a highly specialized field.

Each chapter is accompanied by current references (5–95) including titles and inclusive page numbers (through 1991). Chapter style is that of a review although most authors ended their contributions with hypotheses or suggestions for future work. When taken individually each chapter was informative. However, the lack of a unifying introduction to the book and the somewhat haphazard organization of subject matter left the feeling that one just finished reading 14 separate journal articles. With a price of $140.00, the book undoubtedly belongs in the institutional library. Reprints of papers of interest to individual investigators can be requested by mail.

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Current Trends in Sonochemistry. Edited by Gareth J. Price. The Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, U.K. 1992. viii + 184 pp. 16 × 24 cm. ISBN 0-85186-365-5. £39.50.

The term "sonochemistry" is relatively new; it refers to the applications of ultrasound in chemistry. Ultrasonically assisted chemistry has expanded dramatically in recent years. Recognition of this growth prompted the Sonochemistry Symposium which was held in conjunction with the Royal Society of Chemistry Annual Congress at UMIST, Manchester, April 13–16, 1992. *Current Trends in Sonochemistry* is a collection of papers presented at the symposium. Various aspects of sonochemistry ranging from fundamental physical studies of the effect of ultrasound to the synthesis of complex chemical compounds are reviewed by scientists from diverse disciplines. The objective of the compilation is not to serve as a textbook but rather to summarize current studies in sonochemistry. This objective is clearly met while the introductory chapter serves as a background for those new to the field. Each of the 13 chapters comprising the book has a list of pertinent references. An adequate subject index is also included.

The book addresses an evolving field of chemistry that will be of interest to both synthetic research and development chemists. Institutional access to this excellent summary of recent developments in sonochemistry is recommended.

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