

chemically and biologically related compounds and analogs, the author manages, as well, to present a fairly inclusive survey of the chemistry of most of the antibiotic types. He has included enough of the historical development of this important new field of chemotherapy and sufficient of its challenging aspects to furnish the student with an appreciation of what is still a dynamic research field.

The detailed chemistry is presented comprehensively, although summarily, as must be the case when dealing with such complicated work in a short space. Bibliographic references, however, are given which can lead the reader to the original publications. The author has made use of the biogenetic derivation of the antibiotics to classify them for structural chemistry discussion. This is a wise choice since it permits much chemical, as well as chemotherapeutic, correlation.

With regard to the purpose for which it was designed, an introduction for chemistry students to a broad area of natural product research, this attractive, typographically impeccable volume should find a ready acceptance.

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Optical Rotatory Power of Steroids. By J. JACQUES, H. KAGAN and G. OURISSON. General Editorship, S. ALLARD. Prefaced by W. KLYNE. Pergamon Press Inc., 44-01 21st St., Long Island City, N. Y. 1965. 1046 pp. 21 × 27 cm. \$60.00.

This new edition of the well-known "Pouvoir Rotatoire" needs no introduction to steroid chemists. Many hours of searching the literature can be saved by the use of this extremely useful volume. The book supplies in very well-organized tabular form melting points, specific rotations, and literature references for more than 21,000 steroids described prior to 1961. This is 13,000 more than were listed in the 1956 edition. Although the volume lists only compounds described prior to 1961, references are included up to the end of 1963. The present tables relist all the compounds covered in the first edition, taking note of any revisions in structure or physical constants. A most welcome difference from the 1956 tables is the addition of the melting points of all the listed compounds. Lack of space has persuaded the editors not to list rotatory dispersion data but to designate those references where ORD data may be found. The nomenclature used, which is fully dealt with in the introduction (French and English) follows closely the recommendations of the subcommittee on steroid nomenclature of IUPAC. In those instances where IUPAC recommendations are not yet available, the editors have provided very thoroughly considered extensions of the existing nomenclature. An alphabetical index employs trivial names wherever possible, in addition to the systematic names, a helpful device, particularly with complex structures. The critical attitude, which the compilers of this volume have taken, is apparent from correspondence which this reviewer has had with Mme. Allard regarding discrepancies of rotational values reported for the same compound by different authors, which, in some cases, had to be settled by reparation of the compounds and repetition of the measurements.

The usefulness of this book to workers in the steroid field can hardly be exaggerated. This is in no small measure due to the very well-organized bibliography totaling 6300 references. It is a volume that should be found not only on library shelves but also in the laboratory where steroid research is carried out. This recommendation is made in full realization of the relatively high price of the volume, which, incidentally, is well bound to withstand the extensive usage that such a book is liable to be subjected to.

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