

BOOK REVIEWS

Sex Hormone Pharmacology By J. Brotherton. Published by Academic Press (London, New York, San Francisco) 1976.

This book contains 17 Chapters in 511 pages. The first Chapter gives a survey of the structure and nomenclature of natural and synthetic sex steroids including progestogens, androgens and anabolic steroids, estrogens and anti-estrogens and anti-prolactins as well as the biological availability of these compounds. In the other chapters the biological assessment for animals, the hypothalamo-pituitary axis and feedback mechanism are treated. A general outline of sex steroid biosynthesis and metabolism and the clinical evaluation during normal and pathological menstrual cycles as well as during anovulation (amenorrhoea, oligomenorrhoea and menopause) are given. A clear and up-to-date concept of the latest methods of contraception is indicated in other chapters as well as hormone levels and the physiological aspects of pregnancy. Another chapter concerns male sex hormones in normal and pathological conditions, anabolic therapy and factors involved in the regulation of sex hormone production (gonadotrophins and releasing factors). The final chapter treats the pathological aspects of sex hormones including hormone-dependent neo-plasia and disorders of the skin and hair.

All these chapters are completed by a large bibliography with recent information on these problems. The book is very interesting to read and will be useful for people working in the fields of normal and pathological endocrinology, reproduction, physiology, pharmacology, gynaecology and cancer.

Steroid-Hormone By Lothar Trager. Published by Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg, New York (In German), 1977, 349 pp.

This book contains very recent information about the problems concerning structure, biogenesis and its regulation, as well as the biological activities of different steroid hormones. In other chapters the author gives a clear idea of the different pathways of steroid hormone metabolism and the interaction of these hormones with plasma proteins. Finally in the last chapter a general outline of the different molecular aspects of steroid hormones is presented, including their interaction with specific macromolecules (receptors), as well as the different steps in the mechanism of action. This book will be useful for students, researchers working in this field and for people interested in general endocrinology, physiology, gynaecology, molecular biology and reproduction.