hormones and related substances," since not all of the substrates listed have been demonstrated to be steroid hormones or substances that would be formed from them. The chapter is divided into four sections. Two deal with the reactions of the neutral and phenolic steroids observed *in vivo* and two with the *in vitro* reactions. The former are reactions that would be necessary to explain the formation of a compound isolated from the urine after the administration of a given steroid substrate. The *in vitro* reactions are those that would be necessary to account for the formation of an identified product or structure after incubations with tissues. There is considerable repetition of information given in previous chapters, since all reactions of the neutral or phenolic steroids having 21 carbons or less are tabulated, but the emphasis here is on type of chemical transformation rather than on its role in the organism. The next chapter, "Enzymes influencing steroids," again involves repetition of much material covered under biosynthesis and *in vitro* reactions. In this chapter, however, the types of tissue preparation and the cofactors used are listed.

The next two chapters are given over to an ingenious organization of the previously covered material on the basis of chemical structure. The seventh chapter, "A complete system of steroid metabolism," is largely made up of a series of charts in which certain compounds are taken as key structures, and the various reactions that have been postulated in the previous chapters are organized around them. In the eighth chapter the authors attempt to deduce the effect of structure on the subsequent metabolic reactions and to outline the metabolism of certain steroids on the basis of the reactions and urinary products already discussed. Here an oversimplification enters, for it is implied that all the urinary steroids are formed by enzymes in the tissues of the mammal (usually human) from which the urine has been obtained. This ignores the possible role of the intestinal environment during biliary-enteric recirculation of steroid metabolites, apparently a rather general phenomenon. The last chapter deals with rather general considerations, such as the importance of method, the probability of conversion of C_{19} steroids to C_{21} compounds, and a discussion of the apparent differences between the results of *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies.

For the experienced worker, this book can be very useful as a quick reference for information that would otherwise require hours of library work. Also, in some of the tables space has been provided for the addition of further data as they appear. Thus the usefulness of the outline as a reference can be maintained. The organization of the material according to certain concepts also offers a challenge to test the hypotheses as well as a basis for associative memory. There is danger, however, that the scientist who uses this book to bring himself abreast of an unfamiliar field will be led to false conclusions. For, in the later chapters, chemical organization is achieved at the expense of lack of distinction between biosynthetic processes in the endocrine tissues and the further metabolism of the hormones. Further, as already noted, at no place in the book is the possible role of intestinal environment during hepatoenteric recirculation mentioned. Thus an unwarranted impression of certainty may be obtained regarding certain processes that are, at present, hypothetical. If these factors are kept in mind, however, the book can be a very valuable reference work and a guide to investigations that will determine the significance of the reactions indicated.

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Representative Chordates. A manual of comparative anatomy. Charles K. Weichert. McGraw-Hill, New York–London, 1954. vii + 204 pp. Illus. $3.50.

This laboratory guide for the dissection of four representative vertebrates (the marine lamprey, *Petromyzon marinus*; the spiny dogfish, *Squalus acanthias*; the mud puppy, *Necturus maculosus*; and the cat, *Felis domestica*) is designed as a companion volume to the author's *Elements of Chordate Anatomy*. It contains 103 illustrations.

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Qualitative Analysis and Chemical Equilibrium. T. R. Hogness and Warren C. Johnson. Holt, New York, ed. 4, 1954. xiii + 621 pp. Illus. $5.

In this revision the authors have reached effectively their announced objectives of presenting a considerable body of related theory and a workable short laboratory course in qualitative analysis that is adaptable both to semimicro and macro work. The procedures are, however, given in terms of semimicro operation using the centrifuge.

The theoretical section occupies slightly more than one-half of the volume. A considerable amount of pertinent descriptive chemistry and facts about equilibria precedes each laboratory procedure for a group of elements. The inclusion of a chapter on quantized atoms and molecules and another chapter on nuclear chemistry may represent unnecessary material in many institutions. The other 12 chapters of the theoretical material are standard material for many courses that cover general chemistry and qualitative analysis. The discussion of complex-ion formation has been expanded and includes informative text and charts on the relationship of electronic orbitals and complex formation.

The other chapters of the theoretical section cover atoms, molecules, and solubility; electrolytes; atomic and molecular structure; oxidation-reduction equations; oxidation-reduction equilibria; equilibrium and reaction velocity; equilibria of weak acids and bases; the Brønsted concept of acidity; solubility product; colloidal properties; polybasic acids; hydrolysis, acid-

base equilibria, buffers; amphoteric substances. A brief introduction to laboratory techniques follows the theoretical section.

The qualitative scheme covers only a limited selection of common metallic ions and anions. The group separations for the metallic elements are familiar ones, essentially along lines of the Noyes and Bray scheme. The anion scheme utilizes group tests, for example, for oxidizing or reducing properties, and for precipitation by barium, silver, or calcium ions, to narrow the field of specific tests for the limited selection of anions that is provided for in the scheme.

The appendix includes lists of apparatus and reagents, density-molarity tables for the common acids and ammonia, preparation of test solutions, and mathematical operations and problems thereon. Further tables are for ionization constants of weak acids and bases, solubility products, dissociation constants of complexes, and a very extensive table (32 pages) of properties of substances that may be formed by combinations of the various anions and cations that are provided for in the qualitative schemes.

The subject index is rather brief, but probably adequate. Tables of four-place logarmithms and a set of answers to problems follow the index. A table of 1953 atomic weights is inside the front cover, and a periodic chart, including transuranic elements, is inside the back cover. The typography and the figures are excellent.

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The Properties of Glass. George W. Morey. ACS Monograph Series No. 124. William A. Hamor, Ed. Reinhold, New York, ed. 2, 1954. 591 pp. Illus. $16.50.

Morey's definitive book on glass properties follows closely the format and organization of the 1938 edition and it remains the best available book on the subject. During the past 15 years this book has achieved first rank in providing reliable information to glass technologists and scientists interested in glass. The emphasis on reliability of property data in relation to chemical composition, especially Morey's own pioneering and continuing work on phase equilibriums, has contributed greatly to the development of systematic research in glass. While some of its shortcomings may be minor, they nevertheless deserve to be considered here.

The first three chapters cover the chronological development and characteristics of glass, crystallization studies of glass systems and rates of crystal growth, and the requirements of commercial glasses and the development of new compositions. The presentation would have been improved if glass history and statistics had been brought up to date and a more complete coverage of devitrification rate studies had been included.

Chapter 4 covers the chemical resistance characteristics important in glass usage. It is believed that the four new references do not adequately cover the chemical durability studies made since 1938.

The next 16 chapters are devoted to specific glass properties important in glass fabrication and end usage. Some 225 references are made to new material in these chapters, and many new data have been added. Discussions on new material appear to have been added in a manner that least disturbs the original format. This has resulted in overcondensation and, in a few instances, near exclusion of some accounts of new property measurements.

The last chapter discusses the constitution and structure of glass, principally on the basis of x-ray diffraction studies. Many investigators will not agree with the author's implication that x-ray diffraction studies, notably the excellent work of Warren and his coworkers, give a satisfactory picture of glass structure. In fact, in the author's reference No. 57 to this work, Warren states (p. 258):

> . . . the X-ray diffraction study of a glass gives information only on average quantities; it tells nothing about the fine details of the structure. . . . The X-ray studies of glass might be said to establish the first order approximation to a picture of the structure, and the fine details must be filled in with other kinds of measurements.

Although future research may show that this average picture is the best that can be achieved, I would point out that it is too indefinite to be of much use except in the most simple problems of glass technology. A complete account should have included the continuing efforts of many investigators to apply Raman and infrared spectra, heat capacity, neutron and electron diffraction, electron microscope, and other types of data toward a more definite and usable picture of glass structure.

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The Steel Skeleton. vol. I. *Elastic Behaviour and Design.* J. F. Baker. Cambridge Univ. Press, New York, 1954. xi + 206 pp. Illus. + plates. $8.50.

In 1929 the British steel industry and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research helped form the Steel Structures Research Committee and embarked upon an intensive investigation of various design procedures applicable to steel building frames. It was believed by many engineers that the ductile properties of steel were not fully exploited for structural purposes and that existing building codes were irrational and too restrictive. It was hoped that certain advantages would exist in a design procedure based on the theory of continuous frames and on the ductile properties of steel.

Volume I of *The Steel Skeleton,* by J. F. Baker of Cambridge University, is a review of the analytic and experimental investigations that were conducted by the Steel Structures Research Committee on the elastic behavior of steel building frames. Volume II