

science which deals with normal vital phenomena manifested by animals or plants, or the function of the living organism and its parts. This is in contrast to *pharmacology*, which means the sum of knowledge regarding drugs; and *pharmacodynamics*, which means the study of the action of drugs. It is therefore obvious that the title should read Chemistry and Pharmacology of Alkaloids.

The arrangement of the material in such chapters has several drawbacks. First, the various properties of alkaloids are discussed in different chapters and some are not discussed at all. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, to get a complete picture of the pharmacology and the pharmacodynamic action of a specific compound. This difficulty is only partly overcome by a subject index that lists the pages on which various phases of one compound are discussed. Second, the various chapters are prepared by different authors, and as a consequence the arrangement of the material is not uniform. Some authors stress the clinical aspects and others stress the pharmacodynamic action. For some alkaloids the toxicity is hardly discussed, whereas for others toxicity data are presented. It is obvious that such data are very essential for the pharmacological picture of any compound.

The book is well printed and bound and it contains few typographical errors, the most disturbing being "conine" instead of "coniine," which is not only repeatedly misspelled in the text but also in the subject index. The book has definite limitations as a source for information on the pharmacological properties of alkaloids.

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Poliomyelitis. Papers and discussions presented at the third International Poliomyelitis Conference. International Poliomyelitis Congress. Lippincott, Philadelphia, Pa.-Montreal, Canada, 1955. 567 pp. Illus.

The scientific papers that make up the bulk of this extensively illustrated conference report are grouped under the following headings: social aspects of poliomyelitis, acute medical care in poliomyelitis, infection and immunity in poliomyelitis, developments in tissue culture, orthopedics, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and trends in poliomyelitis. The scientific exhibits at the conference are also described. The conference was held in Rome in September 1954. Thirty-nine countries were represented by delegates.

Books Reviewed in

The Scientific Monthly, May

The Viking Rocket Story, M. W. Rosen (Harper). Reviewed by H. Yagoda.

Culture and Experience, A. I. Hallowell (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press). Reviewed by I. L. Child.

Science and Man's Hope, J. S. Fulton (Bookman). Reviewed by H. L. Shapiro.

Man's Emerging Mind, N. J. Berrill (Dodd, Mead). Reviewed by L. J. and M. Milne.

Culture and Mental Disorders, J. W. Eaton and R. J. Weil (Free Press). Reviewed by M. B. Loeb.

Scientific Writing, M. R. Emberger and M. R. Hall (Harcourt, Brace). Reviewed by R. L. Zwemer.

Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology, pt. E, R. C. Moore, Ed. (Univ. of Kansas Press; Geological Society of America). Reviewed by J. Imbrie.

The Life and Work of Sigmund Freud, vol. 2, E. Jones (Basic Books). Reviewed by R. R. Holt.

Principles of Mathematics, C. B. Allendörfer and C. O. Oakley (McGraw-Hill). Reviewed by H. F. Fehr.

The Sun and Its Influence, M. A. Ellison (Macmillan). Reviewed by D. ter Haar.

Standing Room Only, K. Sax (Beacon). Reviewed by P. S. Henshaw.

Antimetabolites and Cancer, C. P. Rhoads (American Association for the Advancement of Science). Reviewed by E. F. Osserman.

Marine Shells of the Western Coast of Florida, L. M. Perry and J. S. Schwengel (Paleontological Research Institution). Reviewed by H. A. Rehder.

New Books

Psychology: the Fundamentals of Human Adjustment. Norman L. Munn. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, ed. 3, 1956. 542 pp. \$5.75.

Essays on Science. Herman Augustus Spoeher. Foreword by C. Stacy French, contributions by Alexander Spoeher, Hortense Spoeher Miller, and James H. C. Smith and a bibliography compiled by Wilbur A. Pestell. Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif., 1956. 220 pp. \$5.

Electronics in Management. Lowell Hattery and George P. Bush. University Press of Washington, D.C., 1956. 207 pp. \$6.

The Butterflies of Southern Africa, pt. II, *Nymphalidae: Danainae and Satyrinae*. G. Van Son. Transvaal Museum Pretoria, S.A., 1955. 166 pp.

Progress in Neurobiology. I, *Neurochemistry*. Saul R. Korey, and John I. Nurnberger, Eds. Hoeber-Harper, New York, 1956. 244 pp. \$6.75.

Surveys in Mechanics. A collection of surveys of the present position of research in some branches of mechanics, written in commemoration of the 70th birthday of Geoffrey Ingram Taylor. G. K. Batchelor and R. M. Davies, Eds. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1956. 475 pp. \$9.50.

Miscellaneous Publications

(Inquiry concerning these publications should be addressed, not to Science, but to the publisher or agency sponsoring the publication.)

Hydro-Electricity and Nature Protection. Stating the case. vol. II. Prepared by Lord Hurcomb. Union Internationale pour la Protection de la Nature, Brussels, 1955. 224 pp.

Expert Committee on Drugs Liable to Produce Addiction. Sixth report. WHO Tech. Rept. Ser., 102. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1956. 21 pp. \$0.30.

Some Amphibians from the Lowlands of North Borneo. Fieldiana: Zoology, vol. 34, No. 36. Robert F. Inger. 36 pp. \$0.75. *Notes on a Collection of Fishes from Southeastern Venezuela*. vol. 34, No. 37. Robert F. Inger. 16 pp. \$0.30. Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago, 1956.

Institut pour la Recherche Scientifique en Afrique Centrale, Sixieme Rapport Annuel, 1953. The Institute, Brussels, 1956. 229 pp.

Current Biography. Who's news and why. vol. 17, No. 4. H. W. Wilson, New York 52, 1956. 64 pp. \$0.50.

Constituents of Bacteriological Culture Media. A review of information available on methods of manufacture prepared by the Standardization Subcommittee on the Society for General Microbiology. Spec. Rept. G. Sykes, Ed. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England, 1956 (order from Cambridge University Press, New York). 32 pp. \$1.

Space Requirements of the Seated Operator. Geometrical, kinematic, and mechanical aspects of the body with special reference to the limbs. WADC Tech. Rept. 55-159. Wilfred T. Dempster. Wright Air Development Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, 1955 (order from Office of Technical Services, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Washington 25). 254 pp.

Land Acquisition, 1955. Highway Research Board Bull. 113. 1956. 83 pp. \$1.80. *Design and Testing of Flexible Pavement*. Bull. 114. 1955. 87 pp. \$1.65. National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, Washington.

Carnegie Institution of Washington, Yearbook No. 54. 1 July 1954-30 June 1955. With administrative reports through 9 December 1955. 311 pp. Paper, \$1; cloth, \$1.50. *Lines of the Chemical Elements in Astronomical Spectra*. Publ. 610. Paul W. Merrill. 1956. 167 pp. Paper, \$1.60; cloth, \$2. Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C.

Migration and Mental Disease. A study of first admissions to hospitals for mental disease, New York, 1939-1941. Benjamin Malzberg and Everett S. Lee. Social Science Research Council, New York, 1956. 142 pp. \$1.50.

Taxonomic Appraisal and Occurrence of Fleas at the Hastings Reservation in Central California. Publ. in Zoology, vol. 54, No. 5. Jean M. Linsdale and Betty S. Davis. 78 pp. \$1.50. *The Frankliniella Occidentalis (Pergande) Complex in California (Thysanoptera: Thripidae)*. Publ. in Entomology, vol. 10, No. 6. Douglas E. Bryan and Ray F. Smith. 52 pp. \$0.75. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1956.