Book Reviews


This series is complementary to the journal ‘International Pharmacopsychiatry’ and compiles contributions which appeared in this journal. Volume I contains essays by Deniker, Huber, Fish, Kielholz and Poeldinger, Baer, Petrilowitsch, and Neumann on various aspects of treatment with neuroleptics and anti-depressants in emergency situations, clinic and practice. Few and Taeschler describe problems involved in the evaluation of pharmacological data for predicting therapeutic effects of psychotropic drugs, while Pichot, Boissier and Simon, Itil, Schulze, and Wieck report clinical aspects and models for this problem. Flegel reviews the principles of statistical evaluation of clinical data. Degkwitz discusses side-effects of psychopharmaceuticals, and Pauleikhoff assesses the situation in electroshock therapy. Included in this volume are also articles on psychiatric pharmacogenetics by Angst and on the use of LSD in psychiatric treatment by Kurland, and Savage and Unger.

P.S. Schönhöfer, Bonn


This volume covers the lectures held at an International Symposium on Lipid Metabolism in Frankfurt-Gravenbruch on June 18, 1969. The first part was devoted to basic principles and problems of lipid metabolism, presenting reviews and recent results on biochemical, physiological, morphological and pharmacological aspects of lipid metabolism, lipoprotein function and atherosclerosis. The second part dealt with clinical and therapeutic aspects of lipometabolic disturbances in diabetes, idiopathic hyperlipemia, hyperlipoproteinemias and hyperlipemia in experimental nephrosis. The final part summarized the results of a round table discussion on pharmacological problems of lipoproteinemias.

P.S. Schönhöfer, Bonn


This new guide on drug interactions, incompatibilities, contraindications, and adverse effects succeeds excellently in its aim of providing a comprehensive appraisal of the hazards involved in producing, handling and prescribing drugs.

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In the general part of the book, problems of quality control and of adequate medical information as well as of pharmacodynamics of drugs and drug mixtures are discussed. The remaining part is mainly taken up by two tables. The first deals with the interference of drugs with clinical laboratory tests, whilst the second and most comprehensive one tabulates alphabetically the interactions of drugs with other drugs, foods and chemicals. It specifies, for instance, approximately 180 interactants with coumarin derivatives and about 100 inter-actants with...
barbiturates. Nearly all the drugs are cross-indexed. No information aside from that contained in the original literature has been consulted for the cited interactions.

The manual is a must for pharmacists and clinical pharmacologists working in general health services and in the pharmaceutical industry. It is also recommended to all physicians whose interest is directed towards a careful and safe medication.

R. Kullmann, Bonn


Since the introduction of nitroglycerin for the treatment of angina pectoris some 120 years ago, a lot of work has been done to clarify its particular mode of action. Although the conceptions are still disputed, it is now evident that factors other than a general vaso-dilation of the coronary arteries are of primary importance in ameliorating anginal attacks. This is shown by carefully planned clinical studies, where in several cases some of the so-called coronary vasodilators have failed to take effect. Possibly, future investigations on regional myocardial blood flow and on myocardial biochemistry will lead to a better understanding of the pathophysiological disturbances underlying the anginal syndrome and to more reliable test models.

R. Chartier in his monograph gives an outline of the pathophysiology of angina pectoris and of the experimental and clinical methods for testing antianginal drugs. Moreover, he has compiled all the available data on nitrites, on β-adrenergic blocking drugs, on the different coronary dilators, and on other drugs of possible usefulness in this field. The bibliography comprises about 2,500 references. The often contradictory results and opinions on the effects of the different drugs have been coordinated, hereby providing a very helpful survey to promote a rational antianginal medication in the light of present knowledge.

R. Kullmann, Bonn


106 authors report in 60 articles on the topics dealt with during the following symposia: I. Clinical and pharmacological aspects of lithium therapy. II. Amine precursors in the treatment and study of affective disorders. III. Methods of evaluation of anxiolytics (minor tranquilizers). IV. Pharmacological and therapeutic aspects of amphetamine and hallucinogen abuse. V. Influence of drugs on social behaviour. VI. Effects of drugs on interpersonal processes (psychodynamics, drugs and psychotherapy, etc.). VII. Special questions: placebo, drug combinations, subjects in new drug trials. VIII. The role of putative central transmitters in behaviour and drug action. Many critical papers on methodology of drug evaluation in animals and man deserve special interest. Very impressive are the introductory remarks of H.E. Lehmann on ‘Crises and conflicts in neuropsychopharmacology’. This volume is considerably cheaper than the preceding one about the 6th congress (hfl. 129.60 / US $ 36.00), but its binding is also of lower quality, for it almost fell to pieces when I ran through it with my thumb.

G. Zetler, Lübeck

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This work on the biochemistry and physiology of bone, first published in 1956, appears now in a completely revised and considerably enlarged 2nd edition. It has been divided into three separate volumes; the third volume has still to appear. Some of the original authors have been replaced by others and several new topics have been added.
The first volume deals mainly but not only with the structure of bone and includes the 9 following topics: general histology of bone, the osteoblast, the osteoclast, skeletal tissue in culture, the organic matrix, the ultrastructure and the molecular structure of bone, scanning electron microscope studies of bone, and bone as a mechanical engineering problem.
The second volume contains also 9 chapters dealing with the circulation of bone, with phosphatase and calcification, enamel and dentin matrix glycoproteins, with influences of growth hormone, vitamins A, C and D and calcitonin on bone and with pathological calcification.
The single subjects are presented as high standard review articles. Nearly all contributions are illustrated by figures many of which are well produced micrographs. The work can be recommended as a very important source of information and of reference on more or less all topics of the biology of bone. It will be of inestimable value to the beginner as well as to the experienced worker engaged in clinical or experimental studies of this organ system.
K. Karzel, Bonn