Book Reviews

Th. A. Ban, F. A. Freyhan, P. Pichot and W. Pöldinger (eds.)
Modern Problems of Pharmacopsychiatry
Karger, Basel
Psychological Measurements in Psychopharmacology
VI + 267 pp., 25 fig., 54 tab.; SFr. 98.-
ISBN 3-8055-1630-4
Vol. 10 (1975): J. Mendlewicz (ed.)
Genetics and Psychopharmacology
VIII + 132 pp., 15 fig., 25 tab.; SFr. 58.-
ISBN 3-8055-2117-0
Vol. 11 (1976): M. Mattila (ed.)
Alcohol, Drugs and Driving
VIII + 102 pp., 22 fig., 17 tab.; SFr. 49.-
ISBN 3-8055-2349-1

Each of these three volumes of the series Modern Problems of Pharmacopsychiatry deals in monographic form with a circumscribed topic.
Volume 7 contains 16 papers by authors from various countries on methods and measuring instruments for the evaluation of psychic functions, psychotic or psychopathological disorders and particularly the assessment of the action of psychotropic drugs. This volume will be welcome as a valuable source of information for everybody interested in this field of psychopharmacology.
Volume 10 comprises 9 contributions devoted to the role of genetic factors in the usage of psychoactive drugs. There are articles on the relationship of genetic factors to drug response in schizophrenia and manic-depressive conditions, on the pharmacogenetic base of alcoholism, on genetic factors in lithium response, on the relationship of acetylator status and response to phenelzine; three articles deal with the potential role of MAO in neuropsychiatric disorders, the genetic control of this enzyme, and pharmacological influences on it. The two remaining contributions deal with plasma dopamine β-hydroxylase and with cytogenetic effects of psychoactive drugs. This volume, thus, underlines the growing attention which is paid to genetic factors in drug therapy and it will be of interest not only for pharmacologists but also for clinicians and practitioners, particularly to those who are confronted with the management of neuro psychiatric disorders.
Volume 11 contains the proceedings of a Satellite Symposium of the 6th International Congress of Pharmacology in Helsinki in July 1975 which was devoted to the topic ‘Alcohol, Drugs and Driving’. The eleven contributions deal with law problems, epidemiological questions, the estimation of alcohol including breath alcohol measurements, psychological
tests for the evaluation of drug-induced changes in behavior, interaction of drugs with alcohol and with influences of anesthesia on driving. According to the broad scope of themes touched and to the practical importance of the general topic ‘alcohol and driving’, this volume will find the interest of readers from various disciplines.

K. Karzel, Bonn

This booklet appearing as vol. 12 of the series Advances in Clinical Pharmacology (editor H.P. Kuemmerle) contains the proceedings of a symposium held in Copenhagen in October 1975. The 18 contributions by authors from various countries deal with the part played by adrenergic mediators in the central nervous system and with clinical or experimental experiences regarding the application of adrenergic beta-receptor blocking drugs in somatic medicine and particularly in psychiatric conditions or disorders, such as drug dependence, anxiety, tremor, stammering, schizophrenia or other psychoses. The book provides insight into this fairly new field of drug therapy and the findings presented are particularly interesting under the point of view of clearing the place of beta-blockers in neuropsychiatric disorders.

K. Karzel, Bonn

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A. Albert
Die Selektivität von Arzneimitteln
This is the German translation of the booklet The Selectivity of Drugs which has been published in the series Outline Studies in Biology in 1975 (for review of the English edition see Pharmacology, vol. 15, p. 94, 1977). The translation keeps close to the original text; only a few additions and alterations have been made. The book is addressed primarily to students of biology as an introduction to a special field of biological phenomena and it aims at bridging the gap between textbooks and more advanced review articles or the original literature. From this point of view it might be of interest not only for students of biology but also for students of medicine and pharmacy.

K. Karzel, Bonn

M. Gabe
Histological Techniques
Springer, Berlin 1976
XXIII + 1106 pp., 2 fig., 35 tab; DM 120.80
ISBN 3-540-90162-0
Making histological or histochemical preparations is not just an applied technique or merely a simple method but a complex procedure with an underlying theoretical basis and with logic consequences. Based on this concept, Dr. Gabe has written and compiled all his experience and knowledge, his ideas and ambitious efforts into the present excellent handbook in Histological Techniques, which is now available in its first English edition. Divided in 5 parts, I. General Principles of Histological Technique; II. General Methods; III.
Histochemical Methods; IV. The Methods of General Cytology; and V. Histological Examination of the Principal Tissues and Organs, it contains within 43 chapters an almost complete collection of those histological methods, which the author by his own experience or by his judgement found to be useful, applicable and important. All steps of preparation, fixation, embedding, cutting and staining are described and explained in extenso, including their theoretical basis, practical performance and possible modifications. As a result the reader will find that performing histological preparation must not be a case of fishing in troubled water. The large number of methods and their critical evaluation by the author support the practical value and the high scientific standard of this handbook. It should be owned and constantly referred to by those beginning to work in histology and should be on the desk of any histological laboratory. D.A. Kalbhen, Bonn

M. Blecher (ed.)
Methods in Receptor Research
Part I and II. Marcel Dekker, New York 1976
Part I: XVII + 383 pp.; SFr. 120.-
Part II: XIV + 380 pp.; SFr. 120.-
ISBN 0-8247-6415-3
(Part I and II ordered together: SFr. 190.-)
The two parts of this work appear as volume 9 in the series Methods in Molecular Biology (editors: A.I. Laskin and J.A. Last). The aim of this work is to present a collection of modern methods in the field of receptor research. Part I deals in 11 chapters with techniques for the preparation or isolation, purification and characterization of receptors for acetyl-choline, ACTH, ø-sympathomimetics, cholera toxin, follicle stimulating hormone, glucagon, gonadotropic hormones, insulin and growth hormone.
Part II contains 11 further chapters on receptors for insulin, lectins, opiates, oxytocin, parathyroid hormones, prolactin, prostaglandins, thyrotropin and vasopressin. This part contains furthermore the author and subject indices for both volume parts.

According to the aim of this series emphasis in the individual contributions is laid entirely on technical aspects. Introductory and concluding remarks are usually kept quite short. The description of the methods, however, is in most instances as complete that the various techniques might be applied in the laboratory without consulting the original literature; nevertheless, all articles are supplemented with extensive lists of references. The two volumes will be a valuable aid for everybody engaged in experimental work with or on receptors, particularly also for pharmacologists.

K. Karzel, Bonn

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H. Böhme and K. Hartke Europäisches Arzneibuch
Vol. I und II – Kommentar
Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, Stuttgart
1976
XXVI + 1388 pp.; DM 195.-
ISBN 3-8047-0475-1
The Pharmacopoeia Europea (Ph. Eur.) volume I and II became legally effective in Germany in 1974 and 1976, respectively, and is planned to succeed all national European pharmacopoeae. The German edition of both volumes is now also available in form of a commentary by Böhme and Hartke (in collaboration with 21 other scientists). This commentary contains detailed descriptions and useful information about all analytical methods and about the various technical procedures for the control of identity and purity of those drugs and compounds, officially listed in Ph. Eur. The pharmacological properties, the therapeutic use and the toxicity of the drugs as well as their characteristic pharmacokinetic data are included and explained. All legal declarations and many useful hints on analytical reagents, standards and reference substances, on chemical, physicochemical and biological tests are described in detail, and will certainly increase the practical value of this commentary for daily work in the laboratory of drug stores, pharmaceutical industries or governmental control institutions. The many and carefully selected literature references may support further studies and information. The present book can certainly be regarded as an excellent 'Handbook for the use of Pharmacopoeia Europea, volume I and II' and may become quite essential for pharmacists, chemists and pharmacologists dealing with the official European drug standards and regulations.

D.A. Kalbhen, Bonn


Based on a symposium held in Göteborg, Sweden in 1975 this volume II contains the papers presented during three sessions and one round table conference, with the following topics: (1) Regulation by Changes in Enzyme Activities; (2) Regulation by Changes in Nerve Impulse Flow; (3) Regulation from Postjunctival or Prejunctional Receptors; (4) Cyclic Nucleotides in the Regulation of Catecholamine Turnover. The excellent contributions and careful editing by distinguished experts in catecholamine research provide an up-to-date source of information on recent results and problems in neurochemistry, physiology and pharmacology of these important neurotransmitters. The reader will get into most intimate contact with the present view on the autonomic function of peripheral and central neurons in regulating their catecholamine turnover at receptor sites. It is a most valuable and important book for neurophysiologists, neurochemists, neuropharmacologists and for all other scientists in catecholamine research. D.A. Kalbhen, Bonn


The enormous progress in neurochemistry during the last 20 years has certainly contributed to our present understanding and knowledge of the mode of action of the central and peripheral nervous system. The success of today’s and further research in neuro-physiology,
biological psychiatry or psychopharmacology is to a great extent dependable on the skilled application and adequate interpretation of the available neurochemical methods. The until now edited series of Research Methods in Neurochemistry was published in 1972 (vol. I), 1974 (vol. II) and 1975 (vol. III) and certainly covers a wide and carefully selected spectrum of methodology including approved and standard procedures as well as recent developments in neurochemical technology. Each volume is divided into the main topics: (I) Ultra-structure and fragmentation of neural tissues; (II) Properties of intact neural tissues; (III) Com-
ponents of neural tissues; (IV) Biologically active amines.

Together they cover a specific range of experimental procedures for preparation, separation, isolation, and analysis of nerve tissues, subunits, structural components, and of functionally important molecular components. Micromethods and cell or tissue culture technique are included as well. Each volume has its own subject index and is an independent unit, but there is of course a close interrelationship between the three editions, not only in respect to new developments and current trends in neurochemical methodology. In total they serve as an up-to-date, valuable laboratory handbook for all scientists and technicians engaged in neurochemical research.

D.A. Kalbhen, Bonn

The present volume contains an excellent report on progress in penicillin antibiotics of recent years by J.H.C. Nayler, member of the Chemical Department of Beecham Research Laboratories. A chapter by G.R. Fearnley illustrates convincingly the therapeutical promises of fibrinolysis in occlusive vascular disease as well as in inflammatory disorders. A contribution by R. W. Brimblecombe on psychomimetic drugs reviews the biochemical and pharmacological effects of the representative and most important hallucinogens.

The volume is of interest for everybody engaged in drug research.

K. Mörsdorf, Bonn

Announcement
The Seventh International Congress of Pharmacology will be held in Paris (France) from the 16th to 21st July, 1978. It is organized by the Association Française des Pharmacologistes, under the auspices of the International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR). It will take place at the Centre International de Paris, Porte Maillot, F-75017 Paris. Its scientific program will include: 23 lectures, given by invited speakers; 30 symposia, namely, 5 on clinical pharmacology, 5 on toxicology, 20 on pharmacology; and 8 methodological seminars.

Free communications, for poster demonstration or oral presentation, will be accepted. Working language: English.

For further information, please apply to: Secretariat, 7th International Congress of Pharmacology, 21, rue de l'Ecole-de-Médecine, F-75006 Paris (France).