Book Notices

Textbook of Organic Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry. 3rd ed. By CHARLES O. WILSON and OLE GISVOLD. J. B. Lippincott Company, Pa., 1956. xvi + 823 pp. 17.5 x 26 cm. Price $11.

The third edition of this text brings it up-to-date with the U. S. P. XV and N. F. X. Various sections of the text have been revised by the following authors: T. C. Daniels, Robert F. Doerge, Ole Gisvold, W. D. Kumler, E. V. Lynn, T. O. Soine, Abraham Taub, G. L. Webster, and Charles O. Wilson. The text is introduced by chapters on: physicochemical properties in relation to biologic action, and metabolic changes of drugs and related organic compounds. Each of the general subdivisions of therapeutic agents, diagnostic aids, and pharmaceutical aids is introduced with a discussion of the group of compounds. This is followed by a descriptive treatment of individual items. Official status and occurrence in dosage forms are indicated. Many drugs are grouped according to their pharmacologic actions. This textbook should be useful in courses on medicinal and pharmaceutical chemicals and should be included in all pharmacy libraries for its value as a reference volume. Text references are given at the end of each chapter and a subject index is appended.

Blakiston's New Gould Medical Dictionary. 2nd ed. By NORMAND L. HOERR and ARTHUR OSOL. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1956. xxvi + 1463 pp. 17.5 x 25.5 cm. Price $11.50.

This new edition makes a good medical dictionary even better. Modernized usage and spellings of terms are included, and about 12,000 items have been added. Drugs which are still in different stages of animal and clinical investigation are defined in this up-to-the-minute effort. The full and dependable coverage of the drug field is obviously attributable to co-editor Arthur Osol. He and Normand L. Hoerr, with two other members of the editorial board and eighty-eight contributors, have prepared a very useful volume. Dr. Osol's knowledge in the field of nucleonics is evident in the full treatment of the new terminology relating to subatomic phenomena. No library is complete without a good medical dictionary, and this one is excellent.

Currents in Biochemical Research 1956. By DAVID E. GREEN. Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, 1956. xvi + 697 pp. 16 x 28.5 cm. Price $10.

This book is a compilation of the efforts of twenty-seven selected contributors to prepare reviews of their special fields of biochemical research covering the past ten years and indicating present and future trends of study. The scope of the coverage is indicated by the titles: chemistry and viral growth; photosynthesis; bacterial fermentations; some aspects of vitamin and growth factor research; the significance of induced enzyme formation; certain problems in the biochemical study of disease; the hormones, their present significance, their future; problems of cellular biochemistry; enzymes as reagents; attempts at the formulation of some basic biochemical questions; enzyme complexes and complex enzymes; relations between prosthetic groups, coenzymes and enzymes; enzyme-substrate compounds and electron transfer; on the nature of hemoprotein reactions; aspects of protein structure; the structure of insulin; a new concept of ribonucleic acids; chemical structure as a guide to the study of biochemical syntheses; the role of nucleotides and coenzymes in enzymatic processes; the biosynthesis of porphyrins, the succinate-glycine cycle; problems in the study of multiple enzyme systems; enzyme kinetics; the interconversion of sugars in nature; a theory of the primary event in muscle action; trends in the biochemistry of nerve activity; blood; some functional considerations; and an integrated concept of carcinogenesis.

The great strides in the advancement of biochemical research and knowledge are attributed to a large degree to the developments in methodology and to the new tools for analytical studies, such as chromatography and spectrophotometry. The new fields for study include the biochemical description of muscular contraction, nerve conduction, glomerular filtration, and secretion and membrane phenomena. References are given at the end of each discussion. The format and printing of the book are very good. A general index would be helpful to those who would use this compilation as a reference text. Undergraduates taking biochemistry, as well as graduate students and those active in applied research, will want this book available to them.

Advances in Enzymology. Vol. 17. Edited by F. F. NORD. Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, 1956. v + 556 pp. 16 x 24 cm. Price $11.

This volume is a compilation of chapters contributed by different authors on the following subjects: enzyme kinetics; the respiratory chain and oxidative phosphorylation; solubilization, migration, and utilization of insoluble matter in nature; enzymatic phosphate transfer; the formation of oligosaccharides by enzymic transglycosylation; nature and function of metalloflavoproteins; chemistry and biochemistry of xanthine oxidase; some controversial aspects of the mammalian cytochromes; metabolic aspects of chemical genetics; and ribonucleic acids and virus multiplication. References are given at the end of each chapter. Author and subject indexes for this volume and cumulative author and subject indexes for volumes 1–17 are appended. The book is a useful addition to biochemical libraries.