

PREFACE

Annual Reports continues to bring together a composite of timely reviews of traditional subjects, appraisals of modern approaches to drug discovery and short summaries of less familiar subjects that may help to broaden the horizons for medicinal chemists. This volume has reviews of potential new drugs acting on the central nervous and cardiovascular systems and of pharmacodynamic and chemotherapeutic agents. These traditional sections have been retained but many of the chapters discuss current research trends. Thus, the CNS section has chapters which consider dopamine agonists, agents affecting GABA and interactions with the opiate receptor. Reflecting the increased importance of enzymes in medicinal research, there are chapters on agents affecting the renin-angiotensin system, on β -lactamases, on enzyme inhibitors and on proteolytic enzymes. Other modern topics include peptide conformation and interactions with DNA. Three chapters discuss drug metabolism from different points of view. Some subjects which normally are reviewed less frequently have been updated. These include diabetes, glucocorticoids and QSAR. Iron chelation and agents for heart failure are considered in this volume and there is a chapter on asymmetric synthesis.

These volumes of Annual Reports are made possible by the cooperative work of dedicated scientists and their secretaries who have taken time from busy schedules to serve as editors, authors and typists. We are all very much indebted to them and I wish to express sincere gratitude.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank H. Clarke". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long, sweeping underline.

Ardsley, New York
June 1978