

BOOK REVIEW

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SURFACTANTS IN COSMETICS
(Surfactant Science Series Volume 16)

Edited by Martin M. Rieger
Published by Marcel Dekker Inc.
New York and Basel

This volume, of about 500 pages, contains fourteen chapters. It is priced at \$89.00 in the US and Canada and \$106.00 elsewhere. Most chapters have a comprehensive lists of references with some as late as 1983. The book is attractively produced and contains a wealth of information. There is a well-organized subject index but no author index.

The authors of the various chapters are authorities from both academia and industry. Although theoretical aspects are not neglected the major thrust of the book is towards practical applications. The recent upsurge of interest in transdermal products is likely to make this book particularly attractive to many in the pharmaceutical industry. It will be a useful addition to the professional library of pharmaceutical formula-tors.

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ENZYME CHEMISTRY - Impact and Application

Edited by Colin J. Suckling

Chapman and Hall (London and New York) 1984

This book of 255 pages, consists of eight chapters, written either singly or in pairs by eight authors. Topics covered include: an interesting historical review, mechanistic basis of enzyme action, chemical models of coenzyme catalyses, selectivity in synthesis-chemicals or enzymes, enzymes as targets for drug design, metal ions in biological systems, biosynthesis and finally a fascinating concluding chapter which considers the impact of enzymology in biochemistry and beyond.

The book is well-presented Figures and Tables are clear, and the book appears to be commendably free of typographical errors. References as late as 1982 are included. The style varies somewhat, as might, of course be expected in a multi-author book, but it is generally forceful and unambiguous.

This reviewer has many books cross his editorial desk. In far too many instances he laments the trees cut down and sacrificed for what seems to him to be of little purpose. In the present instance, however, he is very enthusiastic about the value of this enterprise. The book was a pleasure to read and provided a valuable opportunity to brush-up knowledge of enzymology. Readers of this journal may,

perhaps, find chapter five (Enzymes as targets for drug design) to be of most interest, but all chapters are of value.

At \$36.00 this hardcover book is a bargain. Anyone with any interest in enzymology is urged to buy it.

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RISK WATCH - The Odds of Life

John Urquhart, M.D. and Klaus Heilmann, M.D.

Published by Facts on File Publications
New York, NY and Bicester, England, 1984

This book of 214 pages covers, in nine chapters and two appendices, the topic of our chances of dying - when and why. We know that "Man that is borne of woman has but short time to live". However, in the last century the expectancy of life in Western Europe and North America has, on average, increased very significantly.

The two authors of this book have performed yeoman service in preparing an enthralling exposition of risk assessment. The book starts with a most interesting historical introduction which is followed by the development of the relatively simple, but most impressive, theory which allows risk to be quantified in a meaningful, yet simple manner.

Readers of this journal may well be particularly interested in chapter six "Medical and Surgical Risks", however, the whole book is well worth reading.

This book does not require any special expertise from the reader. Any moderately intelligent lay person could understand the concepts with little difficulty. The text is well-prepared and the

style simple and unambiguous. The Safety Degree Scale represents a logical way of assessing risk and is a concept which anyone associated with the pharmaceutical industry might well find useful in refuting the claims of those who overemphasize drug toxicity. Although, many who read this book may not follow up on references, a sufficiency is provided so that those who so wish can examine the subject more fully.

This book cost \$16.95, a very reasonable price for a hard cover book nowadays. Your reviewer recommends purchase.

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ORGAN FUNCTION TESTS IN TOXICITY EVALUATION

Edited by Charles A. Tysin and Daljit S. Sawhney

Published by Neyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ, 1985

This hardback book of 238 pages is priced at \$42.00. It contains seven well-prepared chapters which provide a comprehensive coverage of toxicity tests. At the end of the book there are twenty-four pages of references, given in the full Harvard style, i.e. over three hundred references. This reviewer could only find a small number of references published in 1982 or later but the book is generally up to date. The chapter contents are quite detailed but the absence of a subject index may prove to be a nuisance to some users.

The content is sound, and detailed, and the style generally easy to accept. The extensive use of tabular data makes the book useful as a reference text.

Purchase of this book is strongly recommended to all with a professional interest in organ function tests.

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