

BOOK REVIEW

The British Pharmaceutical Codex - Principles and Practice of Pharmaceutics

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As is pointed out in the Preface of this most interesting book the BPC has evolved significantly in recent years and the present volume is markedly different in focus from that of many of its predecessors. This book not only provides monographs on a number of important drugs but also provides in Part I (page one to 708) some most useful data of general applicability to drugs.

Section one of the first part of the book covers dosage forms and comprises a good basic summary of some of the basic principles of dosage forms. Section two titled "Product Design, Development and Presentation" covers a miscellany of topics-preformulation, formulation, biopharmaceutics, statistics etc.. The level of treatment is somewhat variable but is generally adequate for introductory purposes. Similarly, Section three, "Preparation and Supply of Medicines" covers a wide range of topics, cGMP's, validation infusion fluids, radiopharmaceuticals etc.. Again the level is rather uneven but generally acceptable. Section four covers "Pharmaceutical Microbiology, Sterile Processing and Contamination Control", it is well-prepared and provides useful data. Section five "Electrolyte Replacement, Nutrient Fluids and Dialysis Solutions" provides a succinct summary of this important field and section six is a most readable section on organic structure nomenclature.

Part two of the book consists of monographs of 154 active substances. These monographs are in many cases surprisingly detailed and provide a wealth of useful data including helpful references.

The book is well prepared with illustrations that are generally clear, accurate and useful. (However, there are some figures of dubious quality, for example, compare Fig. 1 on page 198, compare with with Fig 13 on page 256)

Overall, this book is a treasure-trove of useful data and its purchase is recommended for all libraries in Schools of Pharmacy and pharmaceutical companies.

C.T. Rhodes