

## BOOK REVIEW

IYENGAR (M. A.): A Hand-book of Pharmacognosy; Pp. 98, M. A. Iyengar, Professor of Pharmacognosy, College of Pharmacy, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal 576 119, Karnataka, India. 1974. Rs. 15.

Our heritage is rich in the field of medicine and surgery, and pharmacognosy has occupied a very important place in the healing art. Treatment of ailments by using naturally occurring herbs, plants and animal products is as old as human itself. The drugs of biological origin continue to remain the backbone of drug therapy and in fact they have increased in significance. The enormous development of structural and dynamic biochemistry in the last few years, however, has created a need for a handbook, especially for a pharmacy student at undergraduate level and at Diploma level in particular. The present handbook is a faithful attempt to fulfil this need.

The drugs included in this Handbook are only those which are of great importance from the Course point of view. All these have been presented in a standard proforma specially designed for this purpose. Each entry consists of the official/botanical title, the part used in medicine, the family to which it belongs, English and Indian synonyms, the chemical or active constituents, chemical tests, if any, and the actual and existing uses in therapy. References to recent literature given at the end serve as a source for further and more detailed information. The appendices included facilitate revision and recapitulation of things studied earlier in the text. An index of genera and species appeared at the end is a welcome addition.

Intended primarily as a Handbook for the pharmacy student, this work not only gives him a biochemical insight that is indispensable for the understanding of the natural drugs themselves, but serves as an invaluable asset when he undertakes his subsequent studies in pharmacology. Understanding largely replaces the need for details, and therefore principles rather than details, have been stressed. A highlight of this book is clear photographs of the uncommon drugs and this should enormously help a student.

Finally, although this book is mainly written for the young pharmacy students, there is much in this work that will serve as a ready reference even

for an experienced physician, a medical researcher, an organic chemist, a botanist and a drug manufacturer.

Apart from its useful and scientific content, the printing and get up are excellent. The high cost of Rs. 15 would prevent individual student from owning a copy for ready reference.

Library  
Indian Institute of Science  
Bangalore-560012 (India)

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G. S. R. RAO

## Calendar of events: Conferences/Symposia at the Indian Institute of Science Campus

Sl. No.	Name of the School	Period	Sponsoring Department of the Institute
1.	QIP—"Dynamics of Engineering Systems"	1-15 March 1976	School of Automation and Mechanical Engineering
2.	QIP—"Limit State Design of Concrete Structures"	8-20 March 1976	Civil Engineering
3.	"Applications of Computers for Load Despatch"	17-23 March 1976	School of Automation and Aeronautical Engineering
4.	"An Intensive Course on Active and Digital Filters"	19 April to 2 May 1976	Metallurgy
5.	"Recent Developments in Physical Metallurgy—Techniques"	6-12 May 1976	Metallurgy
6.	QIP- "Insulation Problems in High Voltage Engineering"	9-25 May 1976	High Voltage Engineering
7.	"Particle Size Analysis and Separation"	14-29 May 1976	Metallurgy
8.	"Refresher Course/ Short Term Institute"	14 June to 13 July 1976	Microbiology and Cell Biology Laboratory
9.	"Advanced Institute on Reaction Mechanisms, All India University and College Teachers"	16 June to 13 July 1976	Organic Chemistry
10.	"Advanced Summer Institute in Theoretical Plasma Physics"	June-July 1976	Physics

On the basis of the information received by the Editorial Office on 27th February 1976.