BOOK REVIEW

IYENGAR (M. A.) and NAYAK (S. G. K.): Anatomy of Crude Drugs. Pp. 72 + (vi). Dr. M. A. Iyengar, Professor of Pharmacognosy, College of Pharmacy, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal 576 119, Karnataka, India, 1975. Price: Rs. 12·00 DM. 10, $ 4.0.

Plant product literature is essentially an oral literature transmitted by word of mouth from succesive generation. It acquired the concreteness of written form, perhaps, from the time of Charaka and Sushruta when they wrote their theses on the subject.

The book under review is the third in the series, the other two being: (i) Pharmacognosy of Powered Crude Drugs; and (ii) A Hand Book of Pharmacognosy. The text is devided into eleven chapters covering the various aspects of plant products. The chapters are: (1) Fundamentals ; (2) Roots; (3) Rhizoms ; (4) Barks; (5) Wood;, (6) Leaves; (7) Bulb; (8) Flower; (9) Fruits; (10) Seeds and (11) Hern and a good bibliography.

Plant literature has its own problems in that the student of pharmacy experiences some major difficulties such as their correct identification, etc. As many as 400 identified plant products have been used for medicinal purposes and it is certain that more than 50% of them must have created problems in identification, etc., as they do now also in spite of the availability of modern tools and techniques.

By describing the structural details precisely and exactly well supported by corresponding line drawings, we feel that the authors have fulfilled the long expectations of both degree and diploma students of pharmacy for whom this manual is primarily meant for.

In the short Foreword Prof. Dr. J. V. Bhatt, Emeritus Scientist, ICAR, New Delhi, has rightly pointed out that in India the system of Medicine had its beginning during the Vedic period, some 5–7000 years ago and the resultant healing art, referred to in Ayurveda concerns itself more with knowledge pertaining to prolongation of healthy life and prevention of senility

and diseases rather than to mere curing diseases. Interestingly plants were, and still are, regarded as the national drugs for most oral and non-oral medication. Thanks to abundance of water, light and suitable climatic conditions, this country of ours abounds in plant wealth.

Dr. M. A. Iyengar and his colleague belong to a dedicated band of Pharmacognosy Specialists who have done considerable work in the field by collecting and presenting this asset of the country. They have toiled for a number of years in collecting various types of plant products and presented in a pleasing manner.

The book is an accurate, reasonably complete and easy-to-use reference source for Indian Drug name and is recommended to those students who desire to follow and draw the difficult tissues in the correct perspective.

No praise can be too high for an endeavour of this type.

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

Sl. No.	Name	Period	Sponsoring Departments of the Institute
1.	QIP—Insulation Problems in High Voltage Engineering	9–23 May 1976	High Voltage Engineering
2.	Particle Size Analysis and Separation	14–29 May 1976	Metallurgy
3.	Workshop on Immunochemical Techniques	23 May to 19 June 1976	Biochemistry
4.	Optical Computers and their Applications	1–14 June 1976	Electrical Communication Engineering
5.	Refresher Course in Microbiology and Cell Biology	14 June to 13 July 1976	Microbiology and Cell Biology Laboratory
6.	Advanced Institute on Reaction Mechanisms—All-India University	16 June to 1st July 1976	Organic Chemistry
7.	I.N.S.A.	26 Sept. to 5 Oct. 1976	..
8.	Applications of Computers for Load Despatch	11–16 October 1976	School of Automation and Aeronautical Engineering
9.	Winter School in Engineering—Applications on Lasers and Laser Systems	18 Oct. to 1 Nov. 1976	Central Instruments and Service Laboratory
10.	Intensive Course on Design and Technology of Digital Equipment	21 Nov. to 4 Dec.1976	Electrical Communication Engineering
11.	Symposium on Vitamin and Carrier Function of Polyprenoids	9–11 December 1976	Biochemistry
12.	Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Department of Chemical Engineering	20–24 December 1976	Chemical Engineering

On the basis of the information received by the Editorial Office on 30th April 1976.

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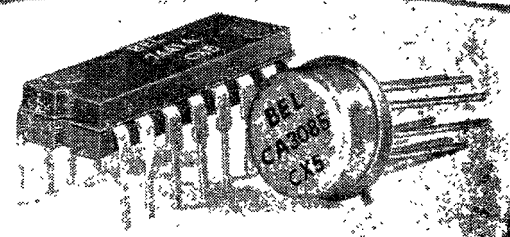

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