

Book Reviews

ANALAR STANDARDS FOR LABORATORY CHEMICALS, 8th Edition. Edited by D. J. Bucknell. BDH Chemicals Limited, Poole, Dorset, 1984. Price £24.00. XXViii + 987pp.

One of the first books I can recall being handed when I commenced work was a small blue book in a stiff cover with a recessed panel in which was printed "*B.D.H. Book of A.R. Standards*". This was exactly what it purported to be and was useful for the testing of laboratory chemicals as this was often more stringent than the 1914 British Pharmacopoeia Chemicals—one of the alternative standards.

This new volume celebrating the Golden Jubilee edition opens with a short chapter on general procedures and then follow individual specifications of over 400 chemicals.

Each monograph has been carefully written and commences with a list of main properties, a concise specification of the purity and then in detail "Methods of Test" to ensure conformity with the specification.

In addition many of the specifications have hazard warning symbols.

The whole is clearly printed on good quality paper and the book opens easily, being completed with a concise and adequate index.

The price would appear to be high, but this is not excessive when one balances this against its undoubted value, especially in a large and busy laboratory since it is, of course, of use in other laboratories as well as analytical ones. The Preface does mention biochemical and clinical analysis and reagents for these purposes are certainly covered.

The book appears to be free from error and can certainly be recommended.

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METHODS OF ENZYMATIC ANALYSIS VOLUME III: ENZYMES 1: OXIDOREDUCTASES, TRANSFERASES. By Hans Ulrich Bergmeyer, Verlag Chemie, Weinheim, 1983. Price DM 258.

This well edited and beautifully produced volume will probably not find a place on the shelf of a routine analytical library, although it might be a useful book of reference. The book is the third of a series of 10 under the title *Methods of Enzymatic Analysis* and is the first of three to deal with the catalytic activities and antigenic nature of enzymes, particularly oxidoreductases and transferases in this volume.

All methods are described in a most practical and uniform style with applications, principles, necessary equipment, reagents and solutions, detailed procedures and validation of results in terms of sensitivity, errors and ranges. The declared bias of the methods, the book and the series is towards clinical diagnosis and biochemical research and for this reason it would be an expensive luxury for any analytical laboratory not primarily involved in those fields.

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CONTROL OF FOOD QUALITY AND FOOD ANALYSIS. Edited by G. G. Birch and K. J. Parker. Elsevier Applied Science Publishers, Barking, Essex, England and New York, 1984. Price £35.00. 337 pp + xi.

This book comprises the papers presented at the fourteenth Annual Industry—University Symposium held at the University of Reading from 22 to 24 March 1983. Each of the speakers at the Symposium was leading authority in his or her field and gave an up-to-date review of that particular subject.

In all, there were 18 papers read and these form the individual chapters of the book. As the title of the book implies, several papers deal with food quality control, emphasising its importance in the continual quest for improvement. Other papers cover analytical research, microbiological control, sensory, chemical and immunological methods of quality assessment with an eye to possible future legislation.

The chapters, therefore, cover a wide range of subjects of interest and the reader can readily pick out his topics without having to read the whole book, which will encourage reading of less familiar areas in other chapters. The chapters are bristling with facts, modestly punctuated with tables and clear diagrams and are easily readable. In several instances the reader can detect the authors' enthusiasm for his subject and sense the progress that is being made.

The reader will find it a pleasant book, not without wit in places. The typescript is pleasing and makes comfortable reading. Inevitably it will date, but not as fast as many books of this type, and will be referred to for many years.

D. J. TAYLOR

QUALITY ASSURANCE PRINCIPLES FOR ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES. By Frederick M. Garfield, Former Assistant Administrator, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. 1984. Price \$45.50 (in U.S.A.), \$48.50 (outside U.S.A.). 224pp.

This handbook provides essential information on how to initiate or improve a quality assurance program. It provides laboratory directors with a rational and solidly based justification for commitment of resources to improved laboratory operation.

The publication draws on published principles, practices, guidelines, and procedures used by many organizations in their programs and calls attention to recognized practices and procedures.

Each chapter gives information on a particular phase of quality assurance considered essential for a good quality assurance system, including attention to management of personnel, quality costs, supplies, equipment, and records. It suggests approaches to sampling, sample analysis, proficiency testing, use of control charts, instrument servicing and calibration, and facilities design and safety. Forms, reliable practices, procedures, and information used by Federal agencies are offered as examples in the text or in the Appendices. At the end of each chapter, appropriate suggestions and recommendations are offered to assist the laboratory director in the development and operation of a quality assurance program.

The final chapter provides information on several laboratory accreditation programs. Also covered are regulations promulgated by Federal agencies for good laboratory practices, and a discussion on the subject of certification, licensing, and registration of chemists.

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