
BOOK REVIEWS

Annual Review of Medicine: Selected Topics in the Clinical Sciences by William P. Creger, Editor; Cecil H. Coggins, E. William Hancock, Associate Editors, Volume 35, (Published by Annual Review Inc. 4139 El Camino Way, Palo Alto, California 94306 USA), 1984. Price: USA\$ 27-00; Elsewhere \$ 30-00.

The volume rightly begins with the title 'Indication for marrow transplantation' by Donwall Thomas E and others driving home the point, not only of enlarged scope of marrow grafting, originally considered only for late stage patients but also as the sure treatment of choice, for a variety of malignant and non-malignant diseases. Genetic aspects of multiple endocrine neoplasm, a newly emerging concept has been ably dealt with by R. Neil Schimke. The chapter on prognosis after recovery from acute myocardial infarction by T. Thomas Bigger and others, concludes after a thorough discussion, that the left ventricular dysfunction, ventricular arrhythmia and ischaemic jeopardy independently determine the outcome after recovery from acute myocardial infarction. Much needed knowledge about the structure, function and regulation of beta-receptor (particularly those of cardiac beta-receptors) and physiological implications have been comprehensively reviewed by Gary L Stiles and Robert J. Lefkowitz. The chapter on pathogenesis and management of lactic acid, makes interesting reading. The topic on the molecular biology of hepatitis B-virus is sure to enhance our knowledge of hepatitis B-virus, chronic carriers and hepatocellular carcinoma. The topic of very low calorie diet in the management of obesity finds its utility among the practising clinicians. The topics on alkaline reflux gastritis and oesophagitis as well as cardiac arrhythmias in children, surely throw new light against the established and long standing ignorance. Review articles on cardiovascular effects of tricyclic antidepressants are much needed and timely at a time when the tricyclic compounds are used with increasing enthusiasm, many a time not caring for side effects. Article about coronary arteriography, high blood pressure in young, renovascular hypertension and respiratory muscle fatigue are highly informative. Choice of lens implantation in cataract surgery is discussed by Richard A. Thoft.

Like earlier volumes, the perusal of the annual

review of medicine volume 35 is an exercise in excellence. The volume is an asset to all those interested in keeping themselves updated with advances in medical knowledge.

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V. PARAMESHVARA

Unit Operations Data by K. D. Chandrasekhar and D. Venkateswarlu. (Published by Chemical Engineering Education Development Centre, I.I.T. Madras 600 036), pp. 175. Price: Rs. 100/- \$ 25-00.

Unit Operations Data, compiled by the authors cover all the important operations like fluid flow, heat transfer, mass transfer and mechanical operations, useful to chemical engineers engaged in research, development and design. Since most of the textbooks available deal with data in non-S.I. units, it is heartening to see all the relevant data in S.I. units as required by Govt. of India Act of 1976.

The book is recommended to practising engineers as it contains pertinent data in S.I. units in one volume. However, it would be more beneficial if we have Unit Operations text books using S.I. units, as it would initiate the readers to learn, operate and think in S.I. units.

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P. K. DESHPANDE

Flora of Karnataka, Vol. 1: (1984) Cecil J. Saldanha, (Published by Oxford & IBH Publishing Co., 66, Janpath, New Delhi 110 002), pp. 535, Price not stated.

We welcome the publication of the Flora of Karnataka. The first volume has just appeared with other volumes to follow. Father Cecil Saldanha, with the assistance of his young colleagues, has done a

commendable job in bringing to fruition this publication within the remarkably short period of about four years of the commencement of the project. Our appreciation and congratulations to Father Saldanha.

The introductory part gives a succinct account of the physiography, geology, soil, bioclimate and vegetation types of Karnataka. There is also a brief account of the botanical history of the State. At page 23, in the reference to the group of botanists at Central College, the names should be Prof. Sampathkumaran and M. J. Thirumalachar and not as printed here.

The systematic part includes an artificial key to the families of flowering plants, native to or naturalised in Karnataka State. 64 families have been treated in this volume out of the 170 families envisaged for the entire flora. Those who are familiar with the Hassan district flora will notice that the format and sequence of family accounts follow the pattern set for that flora but for others and users of this flora, a note in the preamble that the sequence of the families is according to Cronquist's classification, would have been helpful.

The taxonomic descriptions of families, genera and species are concise and adequate, very carefully prepared and edited. The nomenclatural aspects, citations of authors and literature are all accurate and up to date. It would be difficult to find any discrepancy in

this regard. There is, however, an intriguing entry at page 139. Under the family, Nyctaginaceae, there is reference to *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis*. How did this come here?. *Nyctanthes* is sometimes treated under a separate family, Nyctanthaceae. Is it that the author of this family account mixed up the two similar sounding names, Nyctaginaceae and Nyctanthaceae?!. At page 39, *Miliusa* appears under a wrong lead in the key.

The coloured photographs in 18 plates are excellent, the frontispiece of Suratkal Beach and the one of the evergreen forest at Charmudi Ghat, in particular, being outstanding. The line diagrams are accurately drawn, clear and pleasing to the eye.

Local names and economic uses are indicated for most of the species described in the flora. The colourful exotics frequently seen in the gardens and avenues of cities, particularly in Bangalore, are mentioned under the respective families.

Botanists in the country, particularly in Karnataka State, are under a deep debt of gratitude to Father Saldanha for providing them this excellent flora. We eagerly look forward to the appearance of the remaining volumes.

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M. A. RAU

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLICATION & INFORMATION DIRECTORATE

A National Seminar on "Underexploited and Unexploited Economic Plant Resources of India" is being held on 9-11 October, 1985, under the auspices of this Directorate in New Delhi, in collaboration with the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.

This Seminar is intended to highlight information on new and less known plant raw material resources of India with promising economic importance, based on original research work.

Research and/or review papers based on the main theme in any of the following areas are invited: (1) Bioconversion, (2) Biofertilisers, (3) Ethnobotany, (4) Genetic Improvement, (5) Geobotanical prospecting, (6) Growth & Development of less known econo-

mic plants, (7) Information on Import and Export of less known economic plants, (8) Pharmacognosy, (9) Pharmacology, (10) Phytochemistry, (11) Plant Introduction/Germplasm, (12) Plant protection, (13) Toxicology, and (14) Utilisation-General.

The Registration fee is Rs. 75/- upto 30.6.85 and Rs. 100/- after that date.

Last date for receipt of abstract (not exceeding 200 words) in duplicate is 30.6.85 and for full paper 14.8.85.

Those interested in participating in the Seminar may contact M. V. Viswanathan, Organising Secretary (Seminar), Publications & Information Directorate, Hillside Road, New Delhi 110 012.
