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ULTRAMICROSCOPY

a journal devoted to the technical and theoretical advancement of structural research

Scope of the journal

A quarterly publication committed to the advancement of the tools and methods for the microscopic determination of ultra-structures. Its interdisciplinary content will cover all aspects--fundamental and technical--pertaining to the advancement of the state of the art, including, with the exception of light, all manner of radiation and the utilization of new principles.

It is the intent of this journal to provide a synopsis so that the researchers in biology and materials science whose primary interest is the investigation of specific structures can readily seek and find the most current developments in ultramicroscopy, thus bridging the gap in communication between the developer and user.

To this end, the original communications, comprehensive reviews, short notes, letters and reports will be published rapidly, with high quality reproduction of half-tone pictures assured.

Invitation to authors

The editor cordially invites his colleagues to submit papers to his address for publication in "Ultramicroscopy". All papers are subject to refereeing. The journal will not carry a page-charge. A brochure containing detailed instructions to authors is available on request from the editor and the publisher.

Editor:

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Publication schedule

One volume will initially consist of 4 issues of about 100 pages each. It is foreseen that one volume will be published in 1975. Subscription price per volume US\$ 38.50/Dfl. 100.00 (post-paid) Free specimen copies will be made available by the publisher.

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experiments that measured these variables. Multiple regression analysis, apparently without significance tests, is frequently used to relate the different variables. The fourth chapter is concerned with building models, and the final chapter compares the output of models with the experimental data, demonstrating that stochastic models generally give a better fit to data than deterministic models.

The book does achieve the objective of building and testing models, but its style closely resembles the thesis that it is. The use of Fortran-type variables throughout the text and in tables and figures makes the book difficult to read, necessitating continual reference to Appendix IV where one needs to look up the root variable name as well as prefixes and suffixes. The information in the book is diffuse and space is wasted with unnecessary simple computer programmes and procedures. The essential points of model building and of testing on experimental data could have been written much more concisely, and probably with more effect, as an article in a journal.

M. B. Usher

Drugs and toxins

The Chemistry, Metabolism of Drugs and Toxins: An introduction to Xenobiochemistry. By Michael and Maxine Briggs. Pp. xii+386. (Heinemann Medical: London, June 1974.) £5.00.

THIS *pot-pourri* of data from chemistry, biochemistry, biochemical pharmacology, pharmacology and toxicology is put together in four chapters entitled, respectively, Metabolism of foreign compounds, Biochemistry of drugs, Natural antimetabolites, and Venoms. It is given the sub-title "Xenobiochemistry" which is not new (see *Nature*, 187, 94; 1960). The first chapter contains a somewhat superficial account of drug metabolism and the second tries to cover the types, absorption, transport, elimination, mode of action and side effects of drugs, but has 50 pages of tables with several half-empty pages. The third chapter covers microbial toxins, antibodies and antimetabolites whereas the fourth is on the composition and action of all kinds of animal and plant venoms. The book has attempted to concentrate too much into too little and this results in some wrong impressions, as in the case of thalidomide (p. 192) which is known to undergo spontaneous hydrolysis *in vivo* and *in vitro* rather than the enzymic metabolism implied by the book. The chapters on antimetabolites and venoms are, however, useful introductions to the study of these toxins.

R. T. Williams