

manual for first aid personnel and provides much interesting material for physicians and community leaders.

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**Drugs: Their Nature, Action and Use.** By HARRY BECKMAN, M.D., Director, Departments of Pharmacology, Marquette University, Schools of Medicine and Dentistry; Consulting Physician, Milwaukee County General Hospital and Columbia Hospital, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Cloth \$15.00. Pp. 728, with 126 figures, 11 tables and 424 structural formulas. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1958.

Dr. Beckman is an authority in the field of pharmacology, and his previous books are well known. This present volume is his best. Although intended to be a textbook for undergraduate medical students, it is the reviewer's opinion that it will be of even greater value as a reference manual because it is written on a somewhat advanced level. For example, the author states that he is not reviewing the

anatomy, physiology and chemistry of the autonomic nervous system in his introduction to its pharmacology because "it may nowadays be assumed that the student has had a thorough indoctrination of the subject (autonomic nervous system) in his course of neurophysiology before entering upon the study of pharmacology."

The book omits discussion of drugs that are becoming obsolete, and covers well the newer synthetics which had appeared by press time. Formulas, charts and illustrative diagrams are pleasantly abundant. The style of writing makes for interesting and easy reading, and where the author's experience is quoted, rather than submitting definite proof, he says so. It thus becomes easier to judge what is printed. A chart of infectious diseases with preferred pharmacological agents (1957) is given inside each cover. Bibliography and index are adequate. Binding, paper and printing are good and easily legible. This book can be highly recommended to anesthesiologists and to any who want an up-to-date conception of pharmacology.

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