

## BOOK REVIEW

Drugs their nature, action and use Pp. 728 by Harry Beckman, M. D., Director, Department of Pharmacology, Marquette University, Schools of Medicine and Dentistry; Consulting Physician, Milwaukee County General Hospital and Columbia Hospital. Published by W. B. Saunders Company Philadelphia & London, 1958.

Harry Beckman is well known to the profession as the author of Treatment in General Practice and Clinical Pharmacology and as editor of the Year Book of Drug Therapy. His books have been read with pleasure and with profit by physicians and graduate students for over three decades. He has now come out with a text book of Pharmacology for the undergraduate student.

The book is divided into 3 sections and 76 chapters. In the first section an effort has been made to orient pharmacology among the basic disciplines; in the second section general pharmacology is discussed; the third section is devoted to Actions and Uses of Drugs and comprises the bulk of the book.

Each drug is discussed under the following headings; Source, Nature and Preparations; Clinical Effects; Nature of Action; Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism and Excretion; Dosage; Side-Actions, Toxicity and Contraindications.

The book is a welcome departure from the conventional text book. The descriptions of Clinical Effects correlate pharmacodynamics with therapy, and the Nature of Action which is becoming more and more important with the passage of time, has received a special consideration.

In a compass of about 700 pages Harry Beckman has provided a book which will have a special appeal for the undergraduate student of pharmacology.

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