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N. Herwig: Handbook of drugs and chemicals used in the treatment of fish diseases. A manual of fish pharmacology and materia medica. Charles C. Thomas Publisher, Springfield, Illinois 1979, 272 pp. Price 19.25 \$.

The book is divided into two parts (Fish pharmacology and Materia medica) and consists of five chapters. An introduction to the therapeutics in fish diseases gives a general account on the types of therapy other than drug therapy including regulation of activity, physiotherapy, diet or nutritional therapy, hormone therapy, regulation of environment, immunology, etc. As the primary purpose of this book is to explore the subject of the drug therapy further chapters are devoted to the original sources of drugs to the classification of active principles of drugs into various groups according to their chemical structures and to the more common forms of medication. Special attention is paid to the methods of drug administration and to the calculation of dosages and solutions. Toxicology — an important part of the study of drugs — is reviewed briefly; however, the possible toxic effects on fishes are mentioned individually in the second part of the book.

Annotated alphabetical list of drugs and their synonyms provides an amount of well organized information on composition, uses in the treatment, dosage and methods of administration. The choice of references added to

each drug information introduces the reader to the extensive literature scattered in a wide variety of publications. If the reader can provide an accurate diagnosis, the second part of the book will serve to select appropriate drug and dosage to treat diseases caused by various fish pathogens. There are some minor omissions e.g., some words of caution on the use of malachite green accused of mutagenicity by some authors.

We feel that the lengthy list of references to each drug should have been supplemented by a list of representative species of fish in which a particular dosage and time of exposure of a given drug was found effective.

This handbook is a comprehensive source of drug information which covers antibiotics and microbial agents as well. It is unique in being the first book devoted entirely to drug treatment of a single group of animals, the fishes. The editor has to be congratulated to the nice graphic appearance of the volume which should be of interest to veterinarians, professional fish culturists, fish hobbyists and all scientists concerned with fish diseases.

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