

## REVIEW

SIDE EFFECT OF DRUGS — Edited by L. Meyler, 4th Edition,  
Excerpta Medica Foundation, 1963 pp. 386. Price unmarked.

This is a compilation of reports on the side effect of drugs from 1960 to 1962. The increase in potency of therapeutic agents has brought in its wake the risk of drugs, and unless closely kept in view, the treatment can become worse than the disease. Indiscriminate use can lead to tragedies, and recent experience with thalidomide shows that even when reasonable care is exercised, trouble can still arise. Hence it is beholden on every doctor to be informed of the side effects of drugs, and to report them when detected. Unfortunately, the wealth of publications makes it wellnigh impossible for a busy doctor to keep abreast, and hence a compilation of this nature would be most welcome as a source of ready reference.

The book contains good sections on side effects of steroids, antibiotics, thalidomide, newer hypotensive agents, and anti-tuberculous drugs.

The listing of the source is also valuable as many of the reports are based on short duration studies and would need further evaluation by direct resort to the original.

One regrets, however, that the rigid adherence to the policy of compilation within a fixed period of time, has led to the omission of many old and well-established side effects, for the volume could have become much more informative. Perhaps, that will make the volume too sizeable for ready reference. However, an index of side effects would have been a great help, and one hopes that the author would include it in the next edition. Judging by the fact that this book has already run through three editions since its publication, this should not be long in the offing.

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