

spectral methods based upon the powerful bathochromic shift in the absorption spectra of the flavones caused by the formation of the flavone-metal-ligand complexes in solution. A large amount of pertinent data is provided in regard to their estimations, especially sensitivity, selectivity and interference. The monograph makes an eminently readable and useful reference book to analytical chemists.

In its content and discussion, this monograph closely follows a review article entitled "Analytical Reactions of Hydroxy flavones" by one of the authors, Dr M. Katyal, published in *Talanta* in 1977, **24**, 367. The literature in *Talanta* article is covered upto 1977 and hardly six references were added in the present monograph for the period 1978-81. Further the monograph follows the *Talanta* article so closely that the reader will come across several passages copied verbatim and even tables reproduced. In the monograph, however, several figures of the spectra of the flavone-metal complexes were included, but not found in the *Talanta* article. This could have been avoided, for the spectra do not necessarily add to the analytical data already covered otherwise.

One area in which relevant and useful discussion could have been taken up, is the structure representation of the flavone-metal-ligand complexes. Since alternate structures are possible for several complexes, it is necessary to provide adequate data in support of the structures proposed and adopted. Sufficient discussion in this context could have enhanced the value of this monograph several fold.

Finally, there are a few less accurate scientific expressions and repetitions. To quote some, the passage of 3 lines on p. 91 is duplicated on p. 97, while the figure on p. 9 does not represent the flavylum structure, but the ligand of the 3-hydroxy flavone. The terms like  $\alpha:\beta$  unsaturated bonds (p. 13), split bond (p. 28) and mirror image of the absorption curve (p. 64) are confusing and inappropriate. Numerous other typographical and structural errors are also noticed throughout the book.

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## NEWS

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### AUSTRALIAN BRAIN DRAIN INCREASING

... "According to a study of 1982 graduates prepared for the Council of Australian Post-Graduates Assns., almost 30% of scholars with doctoral degrees and about 15% of those with master's degrees went overseas for work because there were no jobs available in Australia. . . . The study found that research jobs had been disappearing in Australia because both the government and private industry had been spending less on research and development. . . . Graduate students are one of Australia's most valuable and, in present times, most needed resources," [said Margaret Powles, the report's author]. 'During higher-degree studies, they perform an average of 40% of the

original research in universities. In some areas, particularly in the fields of science and technology, many vital research programs would collapse entirely should graduate support be removed'. . . . More and more, she said, the country's research requirements are being placed on the universities, but the universities are not receiving the financial support they need to meet the job."

[(Geoffrey Maslen in *Chronicle of Higher Education* 16 Jan 85, p. 37-8) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 11, March 18, 1985, p. 12. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

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## INSECTS, BIRDS, AND TROPICAL DEFORESTATION

... "When several billion birds leave North America each autumn, they find, on arriving in their wintering grounds of Central America and the Caribbean, that their forest habitats have been succumbing to the machete and the match. . . . So fewer birds are heading back each spring north of the border. Smithsonian Institution scientists notice that species numbers are declining at rates between 1 and 4% a year. The prospect is that there will be major reductions in throngs of forest-dwelling migrants. . . . Ironically, it is precisely at the time of the songbirds' return that a number of insect species are likewise putting in a reappearance in North America. . . . The Smithsonian scientists speculate

that . . . insect populations have thus far been held below levels at which they prove harmful to agricultural crops, through the predation pressures of huge numbers of songbirds returning over the horizon at just about the right time. If, however, the songbirds continue to decline, the insects could, within the foreseeable future, start to enjoy a population explosion every spring—which could mean bad news for US farmers."

[(Norman Myers in *Manchester Guardian Weekly* 6 Jan 85, p. 19) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 11, March 18, 1985, p. 14. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

## NO MORE "EATING FOR TWO"

... "Scientists studying the nutritional needs of pregnant women have found to their astonishment that their routine calculations are incorrect. New findings show pregnant women need about 13,000 extra calories during pregnancy, compared to the 80,000 [that] previous calculations implied they should need. Those calculations have been the basis for planning dietary supplements in pregnancy for at least the past 20 years. . . . How these findings can be

reconciled with the known physiological changes, such as increased respiration and cardiac output found in pregnancy, on which the estimate of 80,000 extra calories is based, still has to be explained."

[(John Newell in *New Scientist* 105(1438):20, 10 Jan 85) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 10, March 11, 1985, p. 13. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

## WHY SEEK ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE?

... "Interest in [alternative] medicine is clearly increasing, but no one has asked the general public why they seek such treatment. [A study carried out at Britain's] Ctr. for Alternative Therapies [evaluated] the characteristics of patients seeking treatment. [Of 56 patients surveyed], 54 patients stated that failure of conventional medicine was their reason for attending. Most of these people had a good relationship with their general practitioner and thought that they had received satisfactory treatment from conventional doctors. Nineteen patients thought they were rushed by their general practitioners, but 18 also claimed to be rushed by the doctor at the centre. About half the patients (31) thought that their general practitioner did not understand their problems; conversely, 53

thought that the doctor at the centre had a good understanding of their difficulties. Most of the patients said that they would return to conventional medicine for future problems. . . . Two thirds of the patients believed that alternative methods worked, and many had high expectations of treatment. Expectations appeared to be correlated with outcome: if people expected to get better, treatment was more likely to be effective."

[(George Lewith (Ctr. for the Study of Alternative Therapies, UK) et al. in *British Medical Journal* 290(6461):28-9, 5 Jan 85) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 10, March 11, 1985, p. 13. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

## RELAXATION ENHANCES LEARNING

... "Research suggests that competent readers use visual imagery in their reading to internalize what they read and thereby enhance their comprehension. Less competent readers generally have difficulty developing a visual image because they are unable to filter out distractors that tend to shatter the image. We conducted this study to see if using relaxation techniques and visual image training would improve poor readers' comprehension and literal recall of narrative prose. . . . We developed a 10-day program of exercises in relaxation techniques and visual imagery training [that] was presented to students daily on audiotapes. . . . The [experimental] group listened to one audiotape each day, then the teacher presented the planned lesson. The control group did only the lesson planned for each day. After 10 days, we tested the

students' comprehension. . . . The control group averaged 66% correct, while the experimental group averaged 74% correct. The 8% difference between experimental and control group scores was statistically significant. . . . At the end of the program, the students in the experimental group were more cohesive as a group and were more interested in their general school progress. For the first time, these less-competent school achievers perceived themselves as being successful learners. . . ."

[(Edward R. Zenker & Diana Z. Frey (Baltimore County Public Schs.) in *Journal of Reading* 28(4):342-4, Jan 85) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 10, March 11, 1985, p. 14. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

## WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

... "The question is no singing matter in England, where plants once fairly common in British gardens have either vanished or are now extremely rare. The hunt is on for plants such as *Mutisia decurrens* and *Ostrowskia magnifica*. . . . Activating the search is a six-year-old organization, the Natl. Council for the Conservation of Plants & Gardens (NCCPG). . . . The council's aim is to rescue and guarantee the future of these threatened garden plants. . . . Paradoxically, although Britain is now thicker with gardeners than

ever, many plants are more difficult to obtain. Mass cultivation methods and supermarket retailing restrict the range [of plant species] available. But through organizations such as the NCCPG, enthusiasts are starting to fight the trend."

[(Christopher Andreae in *Christian Science Monitor* 15 Jan 85, p. 29-30) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 10, March 11, 1985, p. 14. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

## WILL CHICKEN POX VACCINE BE USED?

... "A vaccine being tested in the US holds the promise of ridding the country of the last of the common diseases of childhood, chicken pox. [However,] some doctors argue that no vaccine could be safe enough to warrant use against an illness as mild as chicken pox. . . . Concerns have been raised that the vaccine might cause shingles [a painful nerve inflammation that afflicts adults who had chicken pox as children]. 'We don't know for sure whether a vaccine virus would produce shingles at all, if it would produce shingles like chicken pox does or if it would produce one of the most fulminating diseases you can

imagine,' says Thomas Weller [Harvard U.]. Says Mary Ellen Avery, a Harvard pediatrician who until recently was chief physician at Children's Hosp. in Boston: 'Immunization isn't a risk-free situation. The incidence of serious consequences from chicken pox is so small it's not worth the time and effort.'"

[(David Wessel in *Wall Street Journal* 16 Jan 85, p. 1, 20) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 9, March 4, 1985, p. 14. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]