Physics of materials. has activity (research or teaching) in the chemistry and should find a place in the libraries of every institution that seriously interested in this interdisciplinary field, and it this book should be in the hands of every group that is molecular magnetism. Notwithstanding these omissions, is surprising perhaps, since these are important subsets in locenes and other purely organometallic compounds; this comprehensive. For example, there is little to be found the activity in molecular magnetism in 1999, it is not is liberally illustrated, and most of the diagrams are clear which were illuminating while others were not. The text based on a Royal Society ‘Discussion’, some chapters some of the world’s leading groups in this area. Being stimulating, and revealing of the different approaches of this area, I thought the collection of articles was very this is the fourth, revised and expanded version of the previous single-volume edition of this pharmaceutical substance reference work, the last edition of which was published in autumn 1998. This new edition comprises monographs of 2267 active drug compounds, including organometallic drugs, and provides a significant amount of chemical information on each substance. This includes; chemical structure; route of synthesis, including intermediates in diagram form; CAS nomenclature and registry number; international nonproprietary name (INN), as well as standard and trivial names; synonyms; anatomical therapeutic chemical (ATC) codes; European inventory of existing commercial chemical substances (EINECS) number (where appropriate); therapeutic category; toxicological data; pharmaceutical dosage forms; patent number and patent information, including applications for different indications, application date, holder, and expected expiry date; trade names in major worldwide markets; bibliographic information; and references to enantiomeric syntheses where appropriate.

This book, which is also available on CD ROM and as a server-based CD ROM for intranet access, provides more chemical information than the Merck Index (12th edn) but fewer monographs, as it concentrates only on ‘pharmaceutical compounds of significance’. All compounds are organized alphabetically according to their INN and are extensively cross-referenced in comprehensive indexes. These include indexes of trade names, intermediate compounds, enzymes and micro-organisms used in synthesis, plants and animal tissues from which compounds are derived and substance classes.

I like this two-volume set and found it easy to use, largely because of its superb cross-referencing. Given that the publisher intends to update the book and CD with 50 to 100 new pharmaceuticals every year, it is a very good starting point in finding chemical, synthesis, patent and bibliographic information on a wide range of launched pharmaceuticals and should be the book reached for first when you need this kind of information.

Pharmaceutical substances: syntheses, patents, applications
Axel Kleemann, Jurgen Engel (eds), B. Kutscher and D. Reichert
Georg Thieme, Stuttgart, 2001
xxxiv + 2488 pages (2 volumes). DM 998 ISBN 3-13-558404-6

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Current Drugs Ltd, London

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