

BOOK REVIEWS

are established through repetitive physical exercises focusing on specific parts of the body (stylized actions, movements, postures and rhythmic dance steps) that progressively develop in intensity and complexity. The aim is to inscribe aesthetic, emotive, thematic and other aspects of performance in the student and train the body to perform without the involvement of the conscious mind. There is seldom any attempt to pass on knowledge of a conceptual nature to the trainee. Rise in the mental awareness of the student enhances the quality of performance. Narayanan also examines the societal contexts in which the teaching practices of Kathakali developed, drawing a parallel with the training of the martial art *Kalalari-payattu*. He suggests that the culture of training during 17th and 18th centuries, the period when pedagogy evolved in *Kathakali* and in *Kalaris*, was to create an embedded knowledge that can be elicited at will and without resorting to 'conscious' intervention of the mind.

Narash Keerthi discusses the concept and implications of *Prabandha*, which as a category meant several things to musicologists from Matanga (8th century AD) to Venkatamakhin (16th century AD). Various examples of *Prabandha* songs are found in musicological sources from the late medieval period. Keerthi traces the history of *Prabandha* in musicology literature and examines the geneology, theory and practice of *Sriranga Prabandha*, a specific sub-type of the genre. He opines that 'reading musical composition and genres as historical-cultural artifacts makes them amenable to very different analyses'. He also debates on how the mix of textual and performative features in musical *Prabandhas* made them, in comparison to literature more understandable to a larger audience.

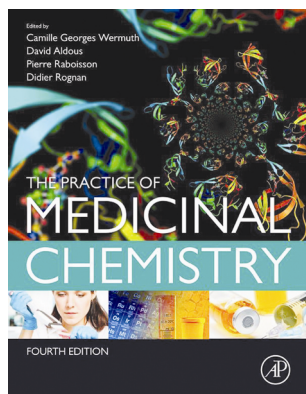
Architectural practices in India date back to the Indus valley civilization (c. 300 BC). Monuments at various locations affirm the astonishing level of perfections achieved by designers, masons, craftsmen and artisans of early India. R. V. Achari distinguishes *Vastuvidya* (architecture) from *Vastusastra* (socio-cultural norms of building construction) and documents the textual tradition, principal features and transitions in *Vastusastra* and the modern reinventions. Achari portrays *Vastuvidya* as a modern incarnation of *Vastusastra*. He concludes that 'the historical monuments are endur-

ing testimonies to the *Vastuvidya* knowledge of our past masters'.

In summary, the articles in this collection reveal that traditional Indian intellectual pursuits were not 'simply magical, romantic, speculative and dogmatic'. The reviews in various domains of knowledge systems suggest a genuine scientific approach in which both inductive and deductive approaches were abundantly followed. The interesting, informative and illuminating contents of this Special Issue of *IJHS* would benefit both students and scholars from a broad range of disciplines. I recommend the study of this collection to all those who are curious to know whether ancient Indian masters possessed logic and reason.

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The Practice of Medicinal Chemistry. Camille Georges Wermuth, David Aldous, Pierre Raboisson and Didier Rognan (eds). Academic Press, An Imprint of Elsevier, 125, London Wall, EC2Y 5AS, UK. 2015. 4th edn. xxii + 880 pages. Price: US\$ 150.00.

The book *The Practice of Medicinal Chemistry* is in the fourth edition which highlights the importance of the topic and its relevance. The book has been rightfully called as 'bible of medicinal chemistry'. It has been reviewed and recommended since the first edition in 1996.

The book has been divided in seven major areas which contain relevant sub-topics. The main topics cover areas such

as general aspects of medicinal chemistry, lead compound discovery strategies, structure-activity relationships, substitutions and functions, molecular modelling, pharmacokinetics and formulations. Each sub-chapter has detailed definitions and explanations of different concepts. The editors have given the responsibility of each area to experts in the field, for example the sub-chapter on natural products as pharmaceuticals and sources for lead structures is written by David J. Newman who publishes review on natural products and their role on pharmaceuticals regularly. This has helped in bringing in the required depth to the chapter.

The book describes in detail, various aspects of medicinal chemistry. Target identification, strategies for new lead compounds, in silico screening, fragment based drug discovery, structural changes to improve the inherent properties of the chosen molecule, pharmacophore identification, drug transport mechanism, formulations and nomenclature are the important topics covered. Ample illustrations help understand the concepts described in the book.

This book is recommended for the practitioners of medicinal chemistry, scientists involved in drug discovery, colleges and universities which teach medicinal chemistry in their curriculum.

The book has a minor limitation. As the chapters are written by different individuals, the drawings that are included are not uniform and the authors will hopefully overcome this in the next edition.

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Annual Review of Nutrition, 2016. Patrick J. Stover (ed.). Annual Reviews, 4139 El Camino Way, P.O. Box 10139, Palo Alto, California 94303-0139, USA. Vol. 36. x + 693 pages. Price: US\$ 96.

It is common knowledge that dietary practices across economies, geographies and ethnicities need to be considerably modified in order to stem the increasing crisis of malnutrition at both ends of the spectrum. While at one end the number