

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON THE SYMPOSIUM

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Pharmaceutical Chemistry is a Science of many facets because, for studying drugs, it utilizes theoretical and experimental means belonging to all chemical branches, especially Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry and Biological Chemistry.

This multivalency of Pharmaceutical Chemistry constitutes its propulsive force as, through it, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, together with the various biological Sciences, is capable of creating the most ideal conditions for the penetration of the chemical thought into the pharmacological event.

The anxiety to reach an interpretation of the action of the drugs at molecular level has become increasingly evident during the last few years. Progress in this direction should also favour a more rational development of the research for new synthetic drugs.

Effectively, Pharmaceutical Chemistry shows two aspects, one purely speculative and one finalistic. The two trends reciprocally influence each other, often reciprocally contributing to the common progress. Together, they make Pharmaceutical Chemistry a powerful ally of Medicine.

The aims of the present Symposium are to examine the present aspect of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, its relations with the convergent Sciences, to divine its evolution, and this through examples taken from research fields which are in a stage of lively evolution besides naturally favouring fruitful contacts between searchers of the same subject or similar ones.

The fields chosen are those of hormone-active polypeptides, natural and synthetic chemotherapeutics and natural or synthetic substances active on the nervous system. Two lectures of a general nature will precede the specialized ones.

The sponsorship of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry to this initiative of the Italian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences, confirms the interest of the international chemical world in pharmaceutical studies. The Symposium Organizing Committee is grateful to these two organizations for the help they have so kindly given.

I thank all those Colleagues who have accepted the invitation to give a lecture and those who will preside over the single sessions.

Finally, I hope that the present Symposium will stimulate the interest of young chemists in the study of the chemical aspects of the action of drugs, a study which represents a window opening onto the marvellous world of the living cell.