



Origins of Resistance to Toxic Agents

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Origins of Resistance to Toxic Agents contains the proceedings of the Symposium held in Washington, D.C. on March 25-27, 1954. Contributors theoretically explore the origins of drug resistance and related problems, based on the concept that the development of resistance to various toxic agents is associated with alterations and/or loss in enzyme proteins, and can explain the mutational and other processes.

This text is organized into five sections encompassing 25 chapters and begins with an overview of the evolutionary aspects of resistance to antibacterial agents, herbicides, and insecticides. The book then discusses spontaneous and induced mutations to drug resistance in *Escherichia coli*, along with the mechanism of drug resistance in protozoa and bacteria, the physiological aspects of insect resistance to insecticides, and the enzymatic detoxication of DDT. The next chapters focus on the origins of tolerance and addiction to drugs and the problem of alcoholism; biochemical effects of narcotics and alcohol administration; tolerance and physical dependence to narcotics; and resistance and dependence in cancer cells. The book concludes by analyzing the significance of protein configuration to the specificity of biological interaction.

This book is a valuable source of information for physicians, biochemists, pharmacologists, entomologists, plant physiologists, students of cancer, and those who are interested in the theory of the evolution of living matter.

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