

BOOK REVIEW

The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics. LOUIS GOODMAN, M.D., AND ALFRED GILMAN, Ph.D., Assistant Professors of Pharmacology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut. 1383 pages, 126 figures, 67 tables. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1941. Price \$12.50.

The appearance of the classic of Goodman and Gilman is an event in the history of Pharmacology. Never before has this field been presented so adequately, nor its importance to medicine so illuminated. The nihilism concerning drugs so fashionable at the opening of this century can no longer survive in any quarter in the face of the knowledge here accumulated. Pharmacology has been revitalized.

The double authorship represents not, as in many cases, a division of labor, but rather its multiplication; for, from cover to cover, each expression of thought has been fused and fire-polished under the synergy of a clinically trained mind with one nurtured in the physiological sciences.

The large, superbly printed volume is a veritable library,—a set of monographs covering today's pharmacology, each complete in itself. The introductory chapters contain about 300 pages of importance to anesthesiology. Here under "Central Nervous System Depressants" are discussed: History and theories of general anesthesia; Stages of anesthesia; Preanesthetic medication, technic of anesthesia and anesthetic accidents; General anesthetics; Ether and chloroform; Divinyl ether; Ethyl chloride and trichloroethylene; Nitrous oxide, ethylene, cyclopropane, acetylene; Basal anesthetics; Tribro-

methanol; the Alcohols; Hypnotics and sedatives; the Barbiturates; the Bromides and dilantin; Chloral hydrate; Paraldehyde and miscellaneous agents; Morphine and other opium alkaloids; Analgesics and antipyretics. A chapter follows on "Central Nervous System Stimulants" (Strychnine and picrotoxin; Metrazol, coramine and camphor; the Xanthines; Caffeine, theophylline and theobromine). Local anesthetics are next thoroughly discussed from the surgical as well as the chemical and physiological viewpoints. Of special importance also to anesthesia is a chapter on gases and vapors.

The action of autonomic drugs, a subject in which the modern advances seemed to have confused some authors, is simplified by a masterly development from the anatomical and physiological background through to the many clinical applications. Especially in this section, and in those, too, which deal respectively with the blood and with water, salts and ions, the reader benefits by the first hand knowledge which Professors Goodman and Gilman have acquired in their own researches. Among three further fields of pharmacology, seething with activity today, chemotherapy claims 280 pages, of which 100 are devoted to sulfonamide drugs; the endocrines and vitamins are discussed in 90 and 60 pages, respectively.

One hundred twenty six well chosen figures and 67 tables enhance greatly both the attractiveness and the usefulness of the volume. Even the complete monograph on prescription writing which appears as the appendix affords interesting reading.

"The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics" is distinctly a clinical

volume but provides the key to the very diverse theoretical background. It is difficult to see how any branch of medicine can be practiced without a great deal of the knowledge so concisely presented here. Among all pharmacolog-

ical treatises known to the reviewer the amazing standards of accuracy, completeness, sense of proportion, readability and general appearance have yet to be surpassed.

H. G. B.

The Library and Museum of the American Society of Anesthetists is open daily from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Mondays through Fridays (holidays excepted), in Room 1503, 745 Fifth Avenue, New York City. For special appointments at other times, call Susquehanna 7-5411. It was established a few years ago for the benefit of all in the medical professions. It is also open to the lay public, but is especially for the use of physicians interested in anesthesia. Admission is free. Guests are requested to register.

There are many interesting items in the library collection of the American Society of Anesthetists which can be obtained for local exhibits by making arrangements with the Librarian. One such rare item is a copy of John Snow's first edition on "Ether." This copy was Snow's personal desk copy and was never bound. There are more than 500 items in the library including all the recent books and journals on anesthesia. The books cannot be borrowed except by members of the Society, but transcripts, photostats, and microfilm copies of certain rare books and articles may be obtained for personal use by writing to the Librarian. Books may also be obtained for scientific exhibits if the proper requirements are met.

The museum of the American Society of Anesthetists now occupies 5 large cases and 24 smaller cases. The accessions date from the beginning of modern anesthesia to the present time. Among the collection may be seen the original Boothby-Cotton gas ether machine, the first gas machine on the West Coast of the United States, an early American chloroform mask, a Morton inhaler, the first Furniss inhaler, the first cyclopropane gauge, the first American Avertin kit, and numerous other originals. For the February meeting of the American Society of Anesthetists the Library and Museum Committee expect to have ready a special display showing the development of the anesthetic mask. All anesthetists are urged to enlarge this growing collection by sending any material they may have to the Library-Museum Committee. If you are holding a special meeting on anesthesia at which exhibits are desired, assistance in preparing them may be obtained by writing to the Chairman of the Museum Committee.