

BOOK REVIEWS

Essentials of General Anesthesia—With Special Reference to Dentistry. R. R. MACINTOSH, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S., D.A.; AND FREDA B. PRATT, M.D., D.A. 334 pp. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, England, 1940. Price 25 s.

The authors of this recent work (November, 1940) require little introduction, being Nuffield Professor of Anesthetics and first Nuffield Assistant, respectively. (Oxford.) Their book, admittedly directed to those interested in dental anesthesia, is well done and comprehensive. The text is well printed on good paper stock.

The content of the book follows a fairly conventional pattern, starting with the history of anesthesia. Theories of anesthesia, certain basic physiological phenomena, signs of anesthesia, premedication, choice of agents (with special emphasis on nitrous oxide), endotracheal technic, respiratory obstruction, emergencies, equipment and legal considerations follow in logical sequence.

The approach, while fundamentally practical in nature, always takes cognizance of basic physiological phenomena. Commendable is the constant reference to the important nature of anoxia in its various forms. This is noted particularly in the chapter on "Theory of anesthesia." Departing from the traditional manner of presentation of the various theories, with the involved pros and cons, the hypothetical, working basis of anoxia is put forward, and the nature of anesthesia is thereby surprisingly well elucidated.

Illustrations of very high quality are appropriately included in the text. These are simple, very well done (many in color) and eminently to the point.

This is particularly true in the section on "Endotracheal Intubation," where there is close correlation between the text, and the various positions of the laryngoscope and the respective picture visualized at various points in the tract. The excellent discussion of cyanosis is illustrated with colored chart and drawings. The teachings of Guedel are followed closely in defining the stages and signs of anesthesia.

An unique chapter for textbooks is an illustrated one describing in detail cylinder valves and reducing valves. The very simple, convenient and satisfactory Macintosh apparatus which deserves more popularity than it has had in this country, is carefully described with illustrations and directions for use in dental anesthesia.

Unfortunate, perhaps, is the (great and minute) detail in the discussion of practical considerations in dental anesthesia. Minutiae in such fineness that seems fairly pointless;—that such are bound to be confusing to the novice, and "old hat" to the veteran.

On the whole, however, it is definitely felt that this work is a valuable addition to the library of any physician or dentist interested in anesthesia. It is especially commended by its modern scientific approach and its ever cognizant awareness of the physiological basis of the specialty.

A. T. R.

"Schmerzbetäubung und Seelische Schonung," Pain Relief and Psychological Management. CARL FEVERS, M.D., Ph.D. 174 pages. Ferdinand Enke Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany, 1940. Price, R. M. 6.50.

The author tries to establish a typology of pain with two main repre-