

BOOK REVIEWS

Aids to Anaesthesia. By MAJOR VICTOR GOLDMAN, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.A., R.A.M.C. Anesthetist, Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford. Price, \$1.75. Pp. 235 with 58 illustrations. London: Balliere, Tindall and Cox, 1941.

Dr. Goldman has written this book "to present in concise form the essentials that must be known to anyone who administers an anesthetic agent." He does not offer it as a text on Anesthesia, but as a reference book for the British medical student or young house surgeon. Dr. Goldman has achieved his purpose very well. The volume contains a surprising amount of varied information relating to anesthesiology. He describes in detail the technics in common practice in his country. He concisely outlines the mechanics of the more widely used anesthetic devices. American anesthetists, who may find themselves using British equipment during the present war, will be grateful for the book. In this regard, the appendix of useful information will prove valuable for those not acquainted with British weights and measures, and nomenclature.

This reviewer's thoughts, upon completing the reading of the book, were as follows: "This is a monograph written by a man who has undoubtedly done a great deal of clinical anesthesia. Throughout, he has presented his pet theories and conclusions based on his own experience. Some of these ideas are not in accord with the prevalent practices in the United States. Fewer positive statements on controversial subjects might be desirable. But on the other hand, much of the value in writing a book comes from making it

represent the author's thoughts, right or wrong, for only by such exchange of ideas will progress come."

FREDERICK P. HAUGEN, M.D.

Physicians' Reference Book of Emergency Medical Service. Paper. Pp. 268 with illustrations. New York, E. R. Squibb & Sons, 1942.

This book is a compilation of abstracts of articles dealing with virtually every phase of war medicine and surgery, the sources being the leading British and American scientific and lay journals of the past two years. It makes no claim to originality and most of it is quoted directly from the original article. A thoroughly exhaustive survey of the literature has been made. It is the best timesaver and best source of information for those interested which we have seen. The following are some of the subjects presented: a lay-out for central control and administration of emergency medical service, basic training in air-raid precautions, protection of hospitals, protection of civilian health, reception and treatment of air-raid casualties, treatment of shock and burns with the various schools of thought well represented, treatment of fractures and wounds, "blast" injuries, protection against poisonous war gases. A very helpful key is included to aid in the diagnosis of casualties suspected of having been exposed to one or more of the poisonous gases. Many of the abstracts include a discussion of resuscitation and choice of anesthetic agent for various surgical procedures. All the material is well presented and the publishers are to be commended for making it available.

A. W. FRIEND, M.D.