

ation and care of tents, regulators, masks, etc. It is a valuable addition to the reference library of the anesthesiologist.

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A Textbook of Exodontia. By LEO WINTER, D.D.S., M.D., F.A.C.D., Professor of Oral Surgery, New York University. Fifth edition. Cloth. Price, \$10.00. Pp. 576, with 492 illustrations. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1943.

(This review is limited to the Section on Anesthesia, Chapters I to XVI.)

Approximately half of this new edition is devoted to the use of regional and general anesthesia, primarily for ambulatory patients. The major portion of the section on regional anesthesia represents a thorough study of the pharmacology of the drugs used in this form of anesthesia, including a description of the more common vasoconstricting agents. The emphasis is placed upon novocaine (procaine). However, the reader becomes sufficiently acquainted with the other drugs used to be able to judge for himself their limitations and uses. He is reminded repeatedly yet gently of the need for strict attention to asepsis; for care in handling instruments, especially as he approaches bony landmarks; for adequate knowledge of the drugs he uses; for preparation of solutions in correct percentage; for guarding against injection into an infected field or a blood vessel. None but isotonic solutions should be employed; use of too much of the vasoconstricting agent may cause necrosis and sloughing. The patient must be spared all possible hazards of psychic trauma by: proper psychological preparation for the intended procedure; gentleness in execution of the anesthetic technic; application of a topical solution before introduction of a needle through mu-

cous membrane; the use of sharp needles; and proper explanation and warning prior to any manipulation requiring the use of force. The proper surgical approach is summarized in the statement: "By the adoption of local anesthesia, the dental surgeon safeguards the patient against crude, rough, and clumsy work on his part, the corollary of which is that local anesthesia exerts a refining influence upon the operator's technic." The dental surgeon must be able to evaluate his patients properly in the preoperative period and to offer them careful but adequate premedication; he should recognize those medical complications which would necessitate hospitalization; he should be conversant with the possible toxic manifestations of the drugs he uses and the treatment of such reactions.

Only a small portion of the above section is allotted to description of the more common technics of regional anesthesia used in dentistry. The material is adequate for one who is already familiar with the procedures outlined, but the details of anatomy and the step-by-step treatment, upon which one depends when first attempting a block, are lacking. There is also no description of the technic of infiltration. However, the text material is supplemented by excellent plates of the anatomical details encountered in injection about the main branches of the second and third divisions of the fifth cranial nerve, and by several photographs of cadaver preparations and of the manner of injection in the living subject. The description of the method of removal of needles broken during performance of a block of the inferior alveolar nerve is very instructive and is supplemented by charts of the anatomy of the region.

The chapter by Dr. E. A. Rovenstine on the fundamentals of anesthesia is designed primarily for "ambulatory

patients and in office practice." He introduces the reader to a knowledge of the more common gaseous and volatile agents and to the basic technics of inhalation anesthesia and analgesia; he draws attention to the necessity for careful preoperative evaluation of patients, for intelligent use of premedication, and for observation of the invaluable signs of anesthesia. One must maintain an adequate oxygen concentration and a patent airway at all times, and he must be ready to treat those complications of anesthesia which may arise. The companion chapter by Dr. Anthony Mecca is devoted entirely to the use of nitrous oxide and oxygen for the ambulatory patient. He states that "proficiency in this field requires special training to meet the requirements peculiar to dentistry." After due consideration of the preoperative evaluation and preparation of the pa-

tient, the author presents an excellent summary of the technic of administration of nitrous oxide-oxygen anesthesia. He emphasizes the advantages of the oxygen-admixture method of induction as compared to the rapid induction technic. The details of the proper use of restraining straps, of the mouth inhaler, nose-piece, and mouth prop are accompanied by good descriptive photographs. This section is completed by advice pertaining to the treatment of nausea and vomiting during anesthesia and in the recovery period; to the general care of the patient in the recovery period; to avoidance of the feeling of suffocation during induction; and to the proper treatment of combativeness.

The medical reader whose training does not include the principles of dental practice will find the remainder of this book very instructive.

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