

BOOK REVIEW

Modern Anesthetic Practice. Edited by the late Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P. and Alan Moncrieff, M.D., F.R.C.P., Second Edition. Cloth. Price 12s. 6d. net. Pp. 150. Published on behalf of *The Practitioner*. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, Ltd., 1946.

This book is one of eleven Practitioner Handbooks written for the general practitioners of Great Britain, and is now in its second edition.

There are twelve chapters, each prepared by an anesthesiologist who is particularly qualified to discuss his subject. In the preface it states that one of the contributors revised his chapter while on army duty in India. The original type was destroyed in an air raid, so that the book has been completely reset. This may account for some errors in spelling that were overlooked in proofreading.

Among the topics discussed are the

use of volatile anesthetics, nitrous oxide, pentothal and avertin, spinal and local anesthesia. Technics of application of these agents and methods are sufficiently well described to be of definite aid to the practitioner who may need such information. Discussions of anesthesia in obstetrics, pediatrics, and dentistry are included. Outstanding is the introductory chapter evaluating modern anesthetic practices as compared to the simple technics. We are all aware of the trend toward increasing complexity of technical equipment and technical application, and must at times have doubts concerning the advantages accruing to patients. The contributor, J. Blomfield, presents these problems with singular clarity.

This reviewer found "Modern Anesthetic Practice" well worth reading, and can recommend it to anesthesiologists in this country without qualification.

FREDERICK P. HAUGEN, M.D.