

BOOK REVIEW

Anesthesia in General Practice. By STUART C. CULLEN, M.D., Head of Division of Anesthesiology, Department of Surgery, State University of Iowa Hospitals; Associate Professor of Surgery (Anesthesiology), State University of Iowa College of Medicine. Cloth, price, \$3.50. Pp. 260, with 36 illustrations. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 1946.

Dr. Cullen has based his book on notes for instruction of senior medical students in anesthesiology. It is intended as a manual for the medical student and part-time anesthesiologist as a basis of approach to anesthesiologic problems. It is not to be construed as a complete text in anesthesiology.

The book is divided into twelve chapters. The first discusses Preanesthetic Medication. "Good anesthesia is contingent upon proper preanesthetic medication. Routine use . . . is condemned in favor of individualized selection of premedicating agents. . . ." This is an excellent chapter and one of the best in the book. Drugs, properties, administration, reactions, choice of drug, dosage, and treatment of drug depression are clearly, concisely and effectively stated.

The Airway is the subject of the second chapter. The importance of the airway is suggested by this statement: "It is a conservative estimate that 90 per cent of the deaths occurring in patients under anesthesia are due to im-

proper management of the airway." Effects of inadequate airway, upper and lower respiratory tract obstruction, methods of improving and maintaining the airway, and endotracheal intubation are discussed.

A discussion of curare is included in the chapter on Inhalation Anesthesia: Agents. The section devoted to the action, use, and limitations of curare is short but pointed.

Chapters are then devoted to Inhalation Anesthesia: Technics; Spinal Analgesia; Regional, Infiltration, Topical Analgesia; Signs of Anesthesia; Choice of Anesthetic Agent and Technic; Recognition and Treatment of Shock; Oxygen Therapy; Pre- and Postanesthetic Care of the Patient; and Explosion Hazards. Also included is an appendix on Anesthetic Agents available for office use. A complete index follows.

A review of this book would not be complete without a word in reference to the numerous cartoons; they are very effective in a Sad-Sack manner.

One gains the impression from reading this book that the author has presented material based on years of experience in the field of anesthesiology. The book is concise throughout, without extraneous and unrelated material. In presenting the book as a manual for the beginner or occasional anesthesiologist the author has made a definite contribution to the instruction of anesthesiology.

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