

BOOK REVIEWS

Letheon. By CHAUNCEY D. LEAKE, M.D., Austin, Texas. Pp. 128. The University of Texas Press, 1947.

Dr. Leake, in his introduction, states that this little volume is written for those who enjoy the ancient rhythm of cadenced narrative. Basically, he has employed the iambic rhythm, with considerable freedom of meter. Following Dr. Leake's suggestion that the story should be read aloud or not at all, the reviewer found it entirely enjoyable. It has a fascinating swing, although with our poor knowledge of anapest or dactyl, tribrach or spondee, we found ourselves on the wrong beat numerous times. Following the verse portion, Dr. Leake has arranged a chronology of anesthesia with extensive references for the material in the narrative. This was found to be as enlightening as the story was pleasing. Dr. Leake is to be congratulated on his ability to portray the history of anesthesia in so unique a form.

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Techniques and Procedures of Anesthesia. By JOHN ADRIANI, M.D.: Director, Department of Anesthesia, Charity Hospital of Louisiana; Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery (Anesthesiology), Louisiana State University; Assistant Professor of General Anesthesia, Loyola University School of Dentistry, New Orleans. Cloth. Price \$6.00. Pp. 404. Springfield, Illinois, Charles C. Thomas, 1947.

"Techniques and Procedures of Anesthesia" is based essentially on the fundamentals of anesthesia with the expressed desire of expediting the activities of the profession in teaching

the student and aiding the instructor. An outline of the various techniques and procedures of anesthesia is presented, not in extreme detail, but in ample coverage to aid the medical student, the novice in anesthesiology, and the physician who is called upon to practice anesthesia occasionally.

The text is divided into seven sections under the following headings: inhalation anesthesia, anesthesia by vascular injection, rectal anesthesia, regional anesthesia, resuscitation, and inhalation therapy. No commonly used anesthetic procedure is omitted. The chapter on inhalation anesthesia is especially well written. The material throughout this work is presented in outline form. This method of treatment permits its use as a reference text with comparative facility and time saving. Numerous explanatory notes accompany much of the material presented.

The chapter on regional anesthesia could perhaps have been presented in greater detail, both in explanation and illustration, but as a whole the text is well illustrated, both by drawings and photographs. Although the section on regional anesthesia is not profoundly covered, sufficient is presented to provide much of the essential knowledge of the regional techniques that are commonly applied.

The management of the index is such that the book can readily be used as a reference work, for by it each subject, technique and procedure can be located easily.

Heretofore Adriani has written books of a nature intended for the specialists in anesthesiology. This contribution is an excellent one for the student, resident and occasional anesthetist.

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