

BOOK REVIEWS

Obstetric Analgesia and Anesthesia.

By FRANKLIN F. SNYDER, M.D.: Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Associate Professor of Anatomy, Harvard Medical School. Price \$6.50. Pp. 401, 114 figures, and 18 tables. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Company, 1949.

The title of this book is misleading so that if one purchased the book for its implied content, he might be disappointed. There are two main divisions in the material presented: (a) "Respiratory Injuries of the Child," and (b) "The Treatment of Pain During Labor." In the introduction the author gives a still better description of the first section: "The history of the respiratory organs before birth and the principal types of pathologic alterations which involve them—*asphyxia*, *atelectasis* and *pneumonia*." The title of the book would not suggest the inclusion of this subject.

Considerable valuable information is gathered in this first section of the book, including laboratory and clinical data gathered by the author as well as detailed summaries of the work of other investigators. The second portion of the book could be divided into (a) analgesics and (b) anesthetics. The latter section would be of little value to an anesthetist since it is merely a recapitulation of the pharmacological properties of the anesthetic agent plus the inclusion of accounts of investigations other than the author's. In the first section of the book, the author briefly mentions original work which he had done on the effect of various anesthetic agents on the newborn and the process of labor, but these data are not discussed at all in the sec-

tion on anesthetics. There is no consideration of the technic of administration of anesthetic agents.

The outstanding criticism of the book is its unnecessary length due to the author's verbosity. It would seem that the length of the book could be reduced to 250 or 300 pages by conciseness and the elimination of repetition; although the information contained in the first part of the book is good, the reader tires quickly. Summaries of chapters are extraordinarily long. For instance the chapter on *asphyxia* is fifty-three pages long, eight and one half pages of which are summary; the chapter on *chloroform* is twelve pages long, four of which are summary.

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Elementary Anesthesia. By WILLIAM N. KEMP, M.D.: Consultant Anesthetist, Children's Hospital, Vancouver, B. C. Price \$5.00. Pp. 289 and 100 figures. Baltimore, The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1948.

The stated purpose of this book is to supply "for the busy undergraduate or the busier practitioner" a discussion of the methods and equipment most commonly used in the administration of general and regional anesthesia. To fulfill this purpose, a text should be written in a clear and concise style; it should present the physiological and pharmacological aspects of anesthesia in such a fashion that it will stimulate one not primarily interested in anesthesia; it should present the methods of anesthesia with which a student should be familiar and which a practitioner might be able to use; finally,