

tion is thereby condensed into a small area. As a consequence, however, it makes for intensive reading. The organization in some respects seems confusing. For example, the absorption technique is outlined in the center of the section on agents just before the material on cyclopropane. The types of apparatus are put in the section dealing with nitrous oxide. Pethidine (demerol-meperidine) is included in the section on intravenous anesthetic agents.

The section on regional anesthesia is rather extensive, but suffers from an almost complete absence of illustrations.

The book, however, is an excellent addition to the library of the medical student who wants concise information, is a very useful source of detail for the physicians studying for qualifying examinations such as the American Board of Anesthesiology or the American College of Anesthesiologists, and is a handy but limited reference text for the full- or part-time practicing anesthetist.

STUART C. CULLEN, M.D.

*The Principles of Thoracic Anesthesia—Past and present.* By WILLIAM W. MUSHIN, M.A., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A., Director of Anaesthesia, Welsh National School of Medicine; Consultant Anesthetists, United Cardiff Hospitals; Consultant Adviser in Anaesthetics, Welsh Regional Hospital Board; formerly First Assistant, Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics, University of Oxford, and L. RENDELL-BAKER, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., D.A., Consultant Anaesthetist, United Cardiff Hospitals and Welsh Regional Hospital Board; First Assistant, Department of Anaesthetics, Cardiff. Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 172 pages, 217 illustrations. 1953.

This reference book was written to present the principles of thoracic an-

esthesia and the numerous difficulties encountered by anesthetists in the past, as well as a challenge to the future thoracic anesthetist.

The subject matter is divided into 3 main headings: I, The Pneumothorax Problem and Its Solution; II, Historical Background; III, Methods in Use Today. There is an ample index, the type is plain and easy to read, and the biographical notes at the end of the book are excellent. The subject matter is discussed fully and well presented; the bibliography is complete and chronological.

All anesthesiologists would profit by reading this book.

KENNETH K. KEOWN, M.D.

*Cerebral Anoxia.* By CYRIL B. COURVILLE, M.D. Pp. 225, illustrated. San Lucas Press, Los Angeles, 1953.

This book, published in the form of a text, is written by the author of many previous publications concerning the effects of anoxia on the central nervous system. In this present book he has included some of these previous publications and has added to them two newer essays dealing with the same subject. Dr. Courville is well qualified to speak on the subject of cerebral anoxia. For more than twenty years, in his capacity as director of the Cajal Laboratory of Neuropathology, he has been able to study autopsy specimens obtained from various types of fatalities involving anoxia.

In the initial pages of his book the author traces the history of asphyxia, citing legends and myths indicating that, from the earliest times, man has been aware that death could result from situations where there was deprivation of air. We now recognize these phenomena as being due to anoxia.

In a following chapter, case studies are presented. Each represents a fatality resulting directly from an anoxic