

THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

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Muscle Relaxants in Anesthesiology. BY FRANCIS F. FOLDES, M.D., Director, Department of Anesthesia, Mercy Hospital; Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Publication Number 294, American Lecture Series, monograph in Bannerstone Division of American Lectures in Anesthesiology. Edited by John Adriani, M.D. Cloth \$5.50. Pp. 224, with 20 illustrations. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Illinois; Blackwell Scientific Publications, Ltd., Oxford, England; The Ryerson Press, Toronto, Canada, 1957.

This book was apparently intended as a background and guide for practical and safe administration of muscle relaxants in anesthesiology. It will, however, prove most useful and readily accepted as a review of the chemistry, physiology and pharmacology of muscle relaxants. The citation of more than 400 references includes a major portion of the important contributions in this field. The book is a starting point for anyone wishing to review specific facets of the actions of the muscle relaxants.

The author's own investigative contributions in this field are considerable and important. Moreover, the emphasis on the clinical use of succinylcholine strongly reflects a personal preference and possibly increased experience with this drug. There are others who undoubtedly have equally strong preference for the clinical use of *d*-tubocurarine, a point of view which is not as well presented in this monograph. The organization of the material is good and its presentation is interesting and easily readable.

LUCIEN E. MORRIS, M.D.

Clinical Cardiopulmonary Physiology. EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: BURGESS L. GORDON, M.D., President and William J. Mullen Professor of Medicine, The Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; and 40 collaborators. Cloth \$15.75. Pp. 768, with 248 illustrations. Grune & Stratton Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, 1957.

As is stated in the foreword: "The American College of Chest Physicians has recognized the need for a monograph on clinical cardiopulmonary physiology—one that would present the normal mechanisms and their disturbances in a lucid and constructive manner. The preparation of such a monograph is a "big order," since the extensive literature must be combed with fine discernment. This book reflects the desire of the Editorial Committee to integrate basic data with the medical history and the physical examination. . . ."

"Important considerations of function testing are presented, with special reference to the mechanics of respiration, obstructive phenomena of the respiratory tract, impaired contractility of the lungs, mixing and dilution problems of the alveolar membrane, congestive heart failure, acquired heart disease and impairment of the pulmonary circulation. A chapter on normal cardiopulmonary physiology provides a background for discussing fundamental disturbances. Charts, graphs and roentgenograms are used for illustrations wherever they seem appropriate and footnotes and cross-references facilitate the reading. Finally, this book is intended to combine the thinking of those now engaged in cardiopulmonary physiology in the laboratory and at the bedside. . . . The purpose here is not to answer every question; instead the book should stimulate the thinking of those interested in the fundamental as well as clinical concepts of physiopathology."

This text fulfills admirably the objective set by the American College of Chest Physicians. It should be of interest and usefulness to all practicing anesthesiologists.

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