

THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D., *Editor*

Local Anesthesia and Pain Control in Dental Practice. By LEONARD M. MONHEIM, B.S., M.S., D.D.S., Professor and Head of Department of Anesthesia, University of Pittsburgh School of Dentistry; Assistant Professor Department of Surgery (Anesthesia), University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine. Cloth \$8.75. Pp. 299, with 128 illustrations. C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Missouri, 1957.

This book covers, in adequate detail, anesthesia as related to dentistry. The information about regional blocks required in the practice of dentistry is especially excellent. The book is divided into fourteen chapters which cover pain, the trigeminal nerve, regional analgesia, techniques of regional anesthesia and analgesia, local anesthetics and anesthetic solutions, anesthetic complications, office emergencies, vasoconstriction, preanesthetic evaluation and choice of anesthetic, hypalgesia in dentistry, preanesthetic medication, post-operative control of pain, armamentarium, sterilization, and medicolegal aspects of regional analgesia. This volume is written so that the dental student may readily grasp the important points and is well organized for quick reference. The illustrations, printing, paper and binding are excellent, and the index, adequate.

This book is well written and is highly recommended for the teaching and training of dental students in dental block anesthesia and the problems encountered in the relief of pain in the dental patient.

V. K. STOELTING, M.D.

A Manual of Pharmacology. Eighth Edition. By TORALD SOLLMANN, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pharmacology and Materia Medica, School of Medicine, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. Cloth \$20.00. Pp. 1,535, and 10,900 references. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, 1957.

The fact that this volume has reached its eighth edition speaks for the quality of the author's work. This text does what the author indicates in his preface: "... to furnish a guide through the complexities of modern pharmacology . . . the actions and uses of drugs. Contributions to this subject are being published at an ever-accelerating rate and the wealth of material is indeed confusing. The Manual aims to summarize critically the chief features of these contributions."

The content includes the pertinent information available on modern pharmacology, as well as considerable background concerning drugs that had more use in earlier days. A valuable feature of this text is that the material that all students should aim to know is printed in ordinary type and much material to be consulted as special occasion arises is printed in small type. There are no illustrations, and the chemical formulas as presented in earlier editions have been nearly completely eliminated. Only a few tables are presented in the entire book. The bibliography is quite adequate. The style of writing makes for easy reading, and the binding and paper are satisfactory. The amount of new material included indicates that although Dr. Sollmann may have retired as a Professor, he has certainly continued to be active as an author.

A few minor contradictions appear; for example, on page 395, "The pulse may be unchanged or considerably slowed (by scopolamine)," whereas on page 398, still referring to scopolamine, we find "it increases the heart rate." Similarly referring to meperidine on page 282, "Analgetic doses cause little or no respiratory depression; it is therefore safer than morphine or methadone for obstetric analgesia," and on page 285, "Obstetrical

analgetic doses of—meperidine—depress and defer the respiration of the delivered infant." On page 898, the statement is made: "In traumatic shock, when the circulation is seriously impaired, ether is preferred." The author then proceeds to present arguments telling why the above statement is not true.

On the whole, however, the book treats subjects with which anesthesiologists are concerned adequately and accurately. This is one of the best texts in the field and it is pleasing to find that with the rapid advances in pharmacology, it has been brought up-to-date. It will be of value to all pharmacologists and anesthesiologists.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.

Morphine and Allied Drugs. BY A. K. REYNOLDS, PH.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and LOWELL O. RANDALL, PH.D., Senior Pharmacologist, Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc., Nutley, New Jersey. Cloth \$10.00. Pp. 393, with 14 illustrations. University of Toronto Press, Toronto 5, Ontario; Oxford University Press, Ames House, Warwick Sq., London, E.C., 1957.

This work presents in a single volume much of the available information on narcotic analgesics. The authors, both of whom have contributed much to our knowledge about the pharmacology of narcotics, have completed a large task with success. In this exhaustive review, 1,779 references are critically reported. The book is divided into four main sections: the first section deals with morphine and its derivatives; the second section reviews other alkaloids derived from opium; the third, is concerned with synthetic narcotic analgesics; and the fourth, discusses the antagonists of analgesics and theories relating chemical structure to analgesic activity. The animal and human pharmacology of more than 40 drugs are discussed in the appropriate sections. Greater emphasis is placed on drugs in clinical use. A brief summary concludes the text.

The inclusion of most of the important references on narcotics makes this book invaluable to those who wish to carry out investigative work. Its usefulness would have been enhanced by the inclusion of an author's index. While the book is primarily slanted toward the pharmacologist, the broader implications concerning the effects of narcotic analgesics on the circulatory and respiratory systems should be of particular interest to the anesthesiologist.

EPHRAIM S. SIKER, M.D.

Pulmonary Complications of Abdominal Surgery. BY ANTHONY R. ANSCOMBE, M.S., (LOND.), F.R.C.S. (ENG.), Senior Lecturer in Surgery and Honorary Consultant, St. George's Hospital. Cloth \$4.00. Pp. 120 with 36 illustrations. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois St., Chicago, 1957.

This monograph presents the problem of pulmonary complications which occur after abdominal surgery. The author's purpose is to arouse interest in these complications from the prophylactic standpoint. A complacency is prevalent among surgeons and anesthesiologists; interest and concern is often expressed only when the "full-blown" complication exists.

To approach this subject the author concisely reviews the mechanisms of breathing and methods for evaluation of pulmonary function. Also, use of the "vital spirogram" is outlined as a clinical tool for investigation of pulmonary function. Consideration is then given to the etiological factors present in the preoperative, operative, and postoperative period. Particularly impressing is the analysis of the influences of types of incisions, position, pain, dressings and hydrations. Many of these factors have been empirically accepted, but, with this presentation, a solid scientific support is evident.

The book is easy to read because of a well-organized outline and clearly defined subject and topic readings. Illustrations and tables are concise and appropriate, while the over-all style of writing is lucid. References and statements are accurate.