

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.