

**Pharmacologic Principles of Medical Practice.** Fourth Edition. By JOHN C. KRANTZ, JR., Professor of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Maryland, and C. JELLEFF CARR, Senior Research Pharmacologist, National Institute of Mental Health. Cloth \$14.00. Pp. 1313, with 57 illustrations. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Mount Royal and Guilford Aves., Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1958.

The senior author of this text-book is known to most anesthesiologists as a man who has done a great deal of research on anesthetic agents. Although the text is designed for medical students and physicians, the author's interest has caused him to produce a volume of special merit for anesthesiologists. A major section of the book is devoted to discussion of drugs which affect the central nervous system, including anesthetics, other depressants, and stimulants. In addition, drugs which affect the autonomic nervous system, and the heart and circulation are discussed at length. In writing about these subjects, the authors not only present the latest in pharmacological information, but also include many considerations of clinical interest to anesthesiologists which are ordinarily not found in a text-book on pharmacology.

This book is written in a clear and simple style. Instead of making dogmatic statements, the authors cite the particular article or experiment which reports certain phenomenon, so that the reader is readily able to find the source material and understand the basis for the conclusions. In this, the greatest level of accuracy has been maintained.

This volume has been printed on good paper. The illustrations, formulas, and tabular material are clear. A list of references is included at the end of each chapter. There is a detailed and accurate index.

The text-book is recommended for medical students and physicians, and is of particular interest to those physicians whose special interest is in the field of anesthesiology.

JAY JACOBY, M.D.

**Anesthesia and Otolaryngology.** By DONALD F. PROCTOR, M.D., Assistant Professor of Laryngology and Otology, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore. Cloth \$7.00. Pp. 267, with 33 illustrations. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1957.

Many of the difficulties which beset the anesthesiologist in carrying out his work arise from lack of understanding between himself and the surgeon. This is especially likely to occur in the case of such a specialty as otolaryngology since the areas of activity are overlapping or contiguous. "Anesthesia and Otolaryngology" is almost unique in that the author is experienced both as otolaryngologist and anesthesiologist. Thus the problems are stated with clarity from both viewpoints and practical solutions are offered.

This book is divided into four sections. The first of these, entitled "General Considerations," deals with such important subjects as pre-operative preparation of the patient, pulmonary ventilation during anesthesia, post anesthetic care and medicolegal considerations. Sections two and three are devoted to techniques and management of procedures under general and local anesthesia respectively. Probably any anesthesiologist would find himself disagreeing with some of the opinions and techniques of the author. Cases in point are the necessity of endotracheal intubation for tonsillectomy and the choice of local versus general anesthesia for endoscopic procedures in children. No one could differ, however, with the sound fundamental principles which are repeatedly emphasized. The statistics, based upon a substantial number of cases, testify by the low morbidity and mortality rates to the success of his methods in the author's hands.

The last section entitled "Other Aspects of Problems Common to Anesthesiology and Otolaryngology" deals with respiratory resuscitation, high airway obstruction, problems of ventilation in the unconscious patient and respiratory resuscitation in the newborn. The first and last sections of the book deal with matters which are of importance not only to those specialists mentioned in the title, but to all who participate in the management of patients undergoing surgery, comatose patients, and patients with respiratory difficulties.

The book is attractively set up, and the type is clear and easily readable. Statistical tabulations and charts are well selected and arranged, clear and useful. Descriptions of anatomical structures, equipment, and operative positions are supplemented by a generous number of illustrations, both line drawings and photographs.

"Anesthesia and Otolaryngology" would be a worth while addition to the library of any member of the specialties concerned. It is recommended for medical libraries especially as a reference for medical students or individuals concerned with the particular fields which it treats.

JULIA G. ARROWOOD, M.D.

**A Textbook of Pharmacognosy.** Seventh Edition. BY GEORGE EDWARD TREASE, B.Pharm., D. de l'U., F.P.S., F.R.I.C., F.L.S., Professor of Pharmacognosy, Director of Pharmaceutical Studies and Head of the Department of Pharmacy in the University of Nottingham, Joint author of "The Chemistry of Crude Drugs." Cloth \$8.50. Pp. 808, with 256 illustrations. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1957.

Although the anesthesiologist's practice is not dependent upon a knowledge of materia medica, the bibliophile with a curiosity for botany or pharmacognosy will find many hours of fascinating browsing in this scholarly reference book. Pharmacognosy has been defined as that science which deals with the investigation of drugs and other raw materials of vegetable and animal origin, and includes considerations of their history, commerce, cultivation, collection, preparation for market and storage, as well as their chemistry and identification and evaluation in various states of refinement. Professor Trease's book provides an erudite and up-to-date treatment of all of the above phases of this science. The book is divided into six parts, the first of which is concerned with General Principles. This part includes chapters on history, modern commercial practices, the introduction and uses of enzymes, the cultivation of medical plants, the collection, drying and storage of drugs, and pertinent notes on insects and other pests which may destroy drugs. The second part is concerned with drugs of vegetable origin. It includes three chapters on modes of classification and a systematic taxonomic review of the drugs of plant origin. The third part is devoted to drugs of animal origin. The fourth part is concerned with the chemistry of drugs and includes chapters on modern methods of analysis employing fluorescence, chromatography and tracer techniques. The fifth part is devoted to microscopy and contains a particularly good section on fibers including modern synthetics and plastics. Besides a complete index there is also an appendix in which the principal vegetable drugs now in use in medicine are summarized in tabular form together with the pharmacopoeias and other official works which may usefully be consulted on each.

DUNCAN A. HOLIDAY, M.D.

**The Century of the Surgeon.** BY JÜRGEN THORWALD. Cloth \$5.95. Pp. 432, with 66 illustrations. Pantheon Books Inc., 333 Sixth Avenue, New York 14, N. Y., 1956 and 1957.

The history of surgery between 1800 and 1900 is studied by many great advances including the "conquest of pain." Using the dramatic first person method of relating these adventurous times, the author has authentically and interestingly unfolded this story. His description of the stony countenance of John Collins Warren as he performed agonizingly painful surgery on unanesthetized patients and the description of the mutilations performed by the filthy "lithotomist of Khanpur" are vividly presented. The rapid and open-armed reception of anesthesia maintains the reader's interest throughout the book.

This book is not only easy, interesting reading for a physician, but he may also find it difficult to get it away from other members of the family in order to read it himself.

DOUGLAS W. EASTWOOD, M.D.