

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. HOLADAY, 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.