

Psychiatrist Park House Approved School, Guildford and George Newbold, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., M.M.S.A., D.R.C.O.G., D.C.H. Late Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Orsett Lodge Hospital. Cloth \$6.75. Pp. 276. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1958.

This "handbook" is written in an interesting style and is illustrated frequently by anecdotes in the form of case histories. With the present flurry of exuberance regarding hypnotism, it is quite possible that this volume will be of educational value to the anesthesiologist. It will appeal particularly to those who know little about this aspect of medicine, because it is essentially a primer, an introduction to the potential scope and medical applications of this art.

This volume is written in a conversational, informal manner and, although the authors are obviously sold on the value of hypnosis in many varied conditions, none-the-less they point out a number of limitations. In the chapter on anesthetic applications, they note the ease with which children can be hypnotized and suggest that "analgesia for such simple operations as lumbar puncture, venesections, or incisions can easily and rapidly be obtained."

An adequate section on hypnosis in obstetrical practice is included. Here one believes there is direct application for anesthesiologists. The late Dr. De Lee is quoted to indicate that "the only anesthetic that is without danger (in obstetrics) is hypnotism." However, the authors warn that, "whoever may be the individual responsible for the training of the gravida in the technique of hypno-relaxation for the purpose of analgesia in childbirth, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of adequate preparation during the prenatal period." This technique is not one which can be conducted successfully by rushing into the delivery room at the last moment and then attempting to gain the patient's confidence and cooperation.

C. R. STEPHEN, M.D.

**Transportation of the Injured.** By CARL B. YOUNG, JR., M.P.H., Director, First Aid and Water Safety, Nuecas County Chapter, American Red Cross, Corpus Christi, Texas.

CARL B. YOUNG, M.D., F.A.C.S. Collaborating Physician. Cloth \$6.75. Pp. 238, with 151 illustrations. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1958.

This manual has a double purpose: the instruction of individuals who are directly responsible for first aid and transportation of the injured; clarification of their responsibilities for medical societies, government agencies, and others who provide or supervise emergency units. The author is an active participant in the first aid program of the American Red Cross and has previously written on the subject of first aid and resuscitation. He has had the assistance and collaboration of physicians, government agencies, equipment manufacturers, police and fire departments and others directly concerned with this field.

The first section includes information and instruction on first aid procedures necessary for many different types of emergencies: wounds, fractures, burns, poisoning, drug addiction, emergency births, care of the unconscious patient and acute respiratory emergencies. Interesting chapters are devoted to leadership at the scene of the accident and the relationship between the first aid group and law enforcement agencies, medical and hospital personnel and ministers of religion. Although transportation of the injured is emphasized, this section resembles a standard first aid manual.

The second section gives information for those responsible for providing proper facilities and personnel for first aid purposes. This includes chapters on ambulances and their equipment, the training of ambulance personnel, record keeping, legal factors, and safety in running an ambulance.

This book is clearly written, with many of the instructions in outline or numbered form. There is good use of italics and capital letters to emphasize important points. There are many cartoons and photographs, illustrating actual scenes of accidents, and proper and improper techniques. Some of these may be considered unnecessarily gruesome and some might have been omitted without decreasing the value of the manual. There is also a short glossary of technical terms.

This book is well made with clear print on glossy paper. It is an excellent instruction

manual for first aid personnel and provides much interesting material for physicians and community leaders.

JAY JACOBY, M.D.

**Drugs: Their Nature, Action and Use.** By HARRY BECKMAN, M.D., Director, Departments of Pharmacology, Marquette University, Schools of Medicine and Dentistry; Consulting Physician, Milwaukee County General Hospital and Columbia Hospital, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Cloth \$15.00. Pp. 728, with 126 figures, 11 tables and 424 structural formulas. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1958.

Dr. Beckman is an authority in the field of pharmacology, and his previous books are well known. This present volume is his best. Although intended to be a textbook for undergraduate medical students, it is the reviewer's opinion that it will be of even greater value as a reference manual because it is written on a somewhat advanced level. For example, the author states that he is not reviewing the

anatomy, physiology and chemistry of the autonomic nervous system in his introduction to its pharmacology because "it may nowadays be assumed that the student has had a thorough indoctrination of the subject (autonomic nervous system) in his course of neurophysiology before entering upon the study of pharmacology."

The book omits discussion of drugs that are becoming obsolete, and covers well the newer synthetics which had appeared by press time. Formulas, charts and illustrative diagrams are pleasantly abundant. The style of writing makes for interesting and easy reading, and where the author's experience is quoted, rather than submitting definite proof, he says so. It thus becomes easier to judge what is printed. A chart of infectious diseases with preferred pharmacological agents (1957) is given inside each cover. Bibliography and index are adequate. Binding, paper and printing are good and easily legible. This book can be highly recommended to anesthesiologists and to any who want an up-to-date conception of pharmacology.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.