

## THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

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

**Anesthesia for Infants and Children.** BY ROBERT M. SMITH, M.D., Anesthesiologist, The Children's Medical Center, Boston; Assistant Clinical Professor of Anesthesia, Harvard Medical School; Consultant in Anesthesia, U. S. Naval Hospital, Chelsea; and Lemuel Shattuck, Hospital, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. FOREWORD BY ROBERT E. GROSS, M.D. Cloth \$12.00. Pp. 418, with 182 illustrations. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Missouri, 1959.

The author of this much needed volume is an excellent teacher, interesting lecturer and careful investigator of problems in pediatric anesthesia. He writes with the authority of one who has been associated for many years with Dr. Gross, author of the volume, "Pediatric Surgery," which many surgeons consider as their "Bible."

"Anesthesia for Infants and Children" is more than just a recitation of the author's vast experience. Dr. Smith has culled valuable bits of information from the numerous articles on both technical and theoretical aspects of this rapidly developing and expanding subject which have been widely distributed throughout anesthesia journals and texts, as well as in pediatric, surgical and general medical literature. Here, in one well-written volume, the author has organized and evaluated this information in the light of his own experience.

The author assumes that those who will use this book are already familiar with general anesthesia, and consequently, omits detailed information concerning agents and techniques commonly used for adult anesthesia. The emphasis is placed instead on the anesthetic management of young children which often depends on an intimate knowledge of pediatric physiology, pathology and surgery.

The 31 chapters may be grouped according to subject matter. The first 5 chapters pertain to general physiologic and biologic responses of infants and children to varying conditions and preoperative medication. The next 11 chapters discuss equipment, agents and tech-

niques. In this group are chapters on "Endotracheal Intubation," "Intravenous Barbiturates" and "The Use of Relaxants." Chapter 17 is on "Anesthesia for Infants Under One Year of Age." This age group presents many problems that are unique at this time of life, and Dr. Smith's extensive experience with the newborn makes this chapter outstanding. The next 7 chapters are discussions of anesthesia for various types of surgical procedures, each chapter being devoted to a particular subject, such as, thoracic surgery, general and plastic surgery, orthopedic surgery, and neurosurgery. The next 5 chapters are of a more general nature. They include a chapter on "Special Problems in Pediatric Anesthesia" and one on a phase of pediatric anesthesia that is often poorly managed: "Fluid Therapy and Blood Replacement." The last chapter discusses a subject that is of considerable concern to all who anesthetize children, "Legal Aspects of Pediatric Anesthesia."

The book is generously illustrated by well-chosen photographs, and the text is printed with an easily readable type on an excellent grade of paper.

In summary, this reviewer is of the opinion that this volume is the most complete, comprehensive and authoritative book yet written on the subject of pediatric anesthesia. It is an outstanding textbook and should be studied by anesthesiologists, surgeons and pediatricians.

WILLIAM O. McQUISTON, M.D.

**The Surgeon and the Child.** BY WILLIS J. POTTS, M.D., Surgeon in Chief, Children's Memorial Hospital; Professor of Pediatric Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago. Cloth \$7.50. Pp. 255, line drawings. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1959.

This book is an account of the personal experiences of an eminent pediatric surgeon. It is not a book on surgical technique nor a detailed accounting of any operations. It is

rather something of the philosophy and admonitions of one with intimate knowledge of the field about which he writes.

The anesthesiologist's principle interest will lie in the first 46 pages wherein the author outlines his thoughts on infants and children as patients, their preparation for operation, their anesthetization and their postoperative care. The short chapters are replete with common-sense statements, such as "We might as well admit it—until we have completely won the confidence of children, we are ogres to them" or "Children are such amazing little creatures. Tell them in simple words why they have to go to the doctor or to the hospital or why they have to have an operation, and, in most instances they will cooperate in a fashion that adults might well emulate." There are some statements anesthesiologists will cherish, such as, "Any upper respiratory tract infection—sore throat, running nose, or cough—if detected, precludes admission to the hospital; if appearing after admission, it automatically cancels operation."

The chapter on anesthesia is less than 6 pages and that on cardiac arrest less than 5. There are statements that some anesthesiologists will dislike and disapprove. Yet the fundamental problems of pediatric anesthesia are clearly stated, tried and proven techniques are presented, and the intent is not antagonistic. Of particular interest is the statement, "The anesthesiologist with an audience of a half-dozen observers who has to spend more than a half hour in putting an infant to sleep because of unavoidable difficulties, and who during this time makes no excuses for his slowness and resorts to no drastic expedients to impress the onlookers or to console the impatient surgeon, is a gift beyond price to the welfare of children who are entrusted to his care in the operating room."

The remainder of the book is devoted to a brief description of the common pediatric operations. While not of urgent concern to the anesthesiologist, nowhere can he find a more succinct account of the procedures and the major hazards that await the unwary. It would be profitable if every anesthesiologist who anesthetizes children were to read and study this latter portion of the book.

This is a delightful, well-written and nicely

produced book. It would be unfortunate indeed if only a "stray anesthesiologist" would read its chapters.

JAMES E. ECKENHOFF, M.D.

#### Symposium on Pulmonary Ventilation.

EDITED BY DR. R. P. HARBORD AND PROF. R. WOOLMER. Cloth \$4.00 in U. S. Pp. 109, with 28 figures. Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Maryland; John Sherratt & Son, Altrincham, England, 1959.

Readers who are interested in keeping abreast of current researches in respiratory physiology as it pertains to anesthesia will be rewarded by a fascinating peek into the minds and laboratories of several eminent English colleagues working in this field. These are the proceedings of a conference held in Leeds on February 19, 1958, under the auspices of the *British Journal of Anesthesia*. Included are papers by 6 speakers and the discussion contributed by 22 participants representing anesthesia, internal medicine, obstetrics, physics, physiology and pharmacology. The material covered is topical and includes technology, pulmonary mechanics, ventilation of the newborn, a feeble attempt at some acid-base physiology during hypothermia, management of pulmonary decompensation in the chronic respiratory cripple, and an intriguing hypothesis regarding airway obstruction. In the main, the papers are well composed and annotated with carefully selected references; the discussion is conversational and easily followed, even if some of the allusions to mechanisms are not. The editors deserve credit for producing an unusually readable transcript of a worthwhile symposium.

DUNCAN A. HOLADAY, M.D.

**Physiologie und Pathophysiologie der Atmung.** Second Edition. By P. H. ROSSIER, A. BÜHLMANN AND K. WIESINGER. Cloth DM 58.60. Pp. 395, with 95 illustrations. Springer-Verlag, Reichpreichufer 20, Berlin W 35, 1958.

The need for a German textbook of lung pathophysiology was demonstrated by a complete sell-out of the first edition in little more than a year. As the authors state, this second,