

THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

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

A Synopsis of Anaesthesia. Fourth Edition. BY J. ALFRED LEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.M.S.A., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A., Senior Consultant Anaesthetist to the Southend-on-Sea Hospital. Cloth \$6.50. Pp. 616, with 72 illustrations. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1959.

This fourth edition of a reference book by J. Alfred Lee, brings all of the material in anesthesia up-to-date. The author has made a serious attempt to cover all new drugs and techniques, and presents an excellent summary of current concepts and practices in anesthesia. Equipment, terminology, and current concepts of techniques and drugs have a leaning toward the British practice of anesthesia.

This book adequately covers all phases of anesthesia including general, intravenous and regional anesthesia, electrolyte balance, hypothermia and hypotensive techniques, shock and allied practices. In covering such a large field in such a small book, it is difficult for the author to present lengthy discussions on any one subject. Some readers may be inclined to question this aspect of the book. However the author has covered all new drugs and given a fair amount of discussion to each one. Others may question the arrangement and order of discussion of various drugs and techniques. The material makes for very intensive reading since it is condensed in outline form.

This manual is small and the print is small due to the tremendous amount of material presented. The illustrations are quite clear; however, there is an almost complete absence of illustrations in the chapter on regional anesthesia. The bibliography is rather limited.

This book is highly recommended for medical students and residents in training in anesthesiology and for physicians studying for the American Board of Anesthesiology or the American College of Anesthesiologists exami-

nations. It is an excellent textbook for limited reference.

V. K. STOELTING, M.D.

Hypnosis in Anesthesiology. BY MILTON J. MARMER, M.D., M.Sc., Med. (Anes.), Chairman, Department of Anesthesia, Cedars of Lebanon Hospital and Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery (Anes.), University of California, Los Angeles. Foreword by JOHN B. DILLON, M.D., Prof. of Surgery (Anes.), University of California Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif. Cloth \$6.25. Pp. 150, with no illustrations. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1959.

Dr. Marmer has been actively practicing and advocating the use of hypnosis in anesthesia for several years and, in fact, has played a role in the revival of hypnosis. With this orientation he has selected material of practical importance in the field of anesthesiology and has developed this material into a useful monograph. The scope of the book is limited by the avoidance of truly controversial subjects, and especially of the application of hypnosis in other medical disciplines. Thus, this book is of true value to the anesthesiologist.

The historical background presented is most worthy, since it encompasses an excellent series of quotations from fundamental reports on the subject. Discussion of the psycho-physiology is brief and lacks major conflicts.

Methods of induction and maintenance as well as indications provide a most useful background for the anesthesiologist.

Throughout, it is emphasized that hypnosis is an adjuvant to the practice of anesthesiology. It is another mode with indications, contraindications, advantages and disadvantages. It is not a substitute for chemoanesthesia. This message alone has untold value. This book is recommended to all anesthesiologists.

VINCENT J. COLLINS, M.D.