

## THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

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**Year Book of General Surgery. 1959-1960 Series.** EDITED BY MICHAEL E. DE BAKEY, B.S., M.D., M.S., Professor and Chairman of Surgery, Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. WITH A SECTION ON ANESTHESIA EDITED BY STUART C. CULLEN, M.D., Professor and Chairman Department of Anesthesia, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco, California. Cloth. \$8.00. Pp. 639 with 169 Illustrations. The Year Book Publisher, Inc., 200 East Illinois St., Chicago 11, 1959.

The editors of this book are men who occupy prominent positions in their fields, and who have produced a similar volume each year. The book consists of summaries of important articles which were published during the past year. Each article is identified so that the original can easily be found for more detailed reading. In a relatively small book, many important papers are reviewed.

The surgical portion, which occupies the majority of the volume, is divided mainly according to anatomical areas. Several of the chapters in the surgical portion are of particular interest to anesthesiologists, including those on general considerations, shock, fluids and electrolytes, the lungs and pleura, the heart, and the adrenal glands. In the chapter on general considerations some of the subjects are hypnosis, fibrinolysis, neonatal asphyxia, emergency surgery in the elderly patient, and myocardial and cerebral infarction. In the chapter on shock, fluids, and electrolytes there are discussions of irreversible shock, use of the G suit, massive transfusions, anuria, and the safety of plasma. The other chapters in the surgical portion are of general interest to the anesthesiologist in that they keep him informed of current progress, and contribute to his general information as a physician.

The section on anesthesia consists of chapters on depressant drugs, pulmonary ventilation, circulation, muscle relaxants, and inhala-

tion, regional and spinal anesthesia. These chapters include many subjects of importance to every anesthesiologist, including: anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and mechanical devices. There are discussions of many specific drugs and techniques, complications, hazards, and toxic reactions. There is also a chapter containing miscellaneous material, such as iatrogenic disease, allergy, diabetes, liver disease, acid-base balance of infants, radiation hazards, venous pressure, anesthesia depth and air embolism.

The articles selected for review in this volume include many of the most important current publications. The articles are presented in abbreviated form, each requiring from one-half to two pages of text. The illustrations are simple and clearly reproduced. The editor makes brief and pertinent comments at the conclusion of many of the articles. Large type on glossy paper makes the book easy to read.

This book is recommended for all anesthesiologists as a means of obtaining a review of current thinking in both the surgical and anesthesia fields. It provides an opportunity to refresh the memory, as well as to avoid missing important articles.

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**The Triumph of Surgery.** BY JÜRGEN THORWALD. Translated from the German by Richard and Clara Winston. Cloth. \$6.50. Pp. 454 with illustrations. Pantheon Books Inc., 333 Sixth Avenue, New York 14, N. Y., 1960.

The author, who first studied medicine and later became an editor and journalist, is known for his previously successful "The Century of the Surgeon." This new book, written in a somewhat breezy manner, uses the eyewitness method of presenting great moments in the development of surgery, beginning with the year 1881. An American physician, whom