

THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

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

General Anaesthesia. Volume 1—Basic Principles. Volume 2—Techniques, Special Fields and Hazards. EDITED BY FRANKIS T. EVANS, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A. Anaesthetist, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, St. Mark's Hospital for Rectal Disease, and Royal Masonic Hospital, London; AND CECIL GRAY, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A., Professor of Anaesthesia, University of Liverpool. Cloth. \$29.50 per set. *Vol. 1*, Pp. 531, with 121 figures, *Vol. 2*, Pp. 431, with 78 figures. Butterworth & Company (Publishers) Ltd., London, England, 1959.

This is an impressive and inclusive publication on general anaesthesia. *Volume 1* contains 18 chapters written by 16 illustrious physicians, including a pathologist, an anatomist, an internist, surgeons and physiologists, as well as anaesthetists. This volume begins with a short history of anaesthesia. Thereafter various aspects of medicine touching on anaesthetic practice are covered, including anatomy, physiology of respiration, the cardiovascular system, the nervous system, pharmacology of volatile and gaseous anaesthetics, water and electrolyte balance, blood transfusion, reactions to trauma and their significance to the anaesthetist. Premedication, basal narcosis by means of rectal injection, intravenous anaesthesia, signs of anaesthesia, the relaxants, and principles of anaesthetic apparatus are also discussed. Chapter 5, which contains over 100 pages dealing with physiology of the nervous system, is noteworthy and followed by an extensive bibliography. Although some references and/or bibliography are found at the close of each chapter, as after chapter 5, they are particularly extensive following chapters dealing with pharmacology of volatile and gaseous anaesthetics and the relaxants.

Volume 2 contains 28 chapters by 28 authors, including the secretary of the Med-

ical Defence Union, physicians and research scientists, a cardiologist and a physiotherapist, in addition to authoritative anaesthetists. Anaesthesia for various types of surgery is considered. In addition, anaesthetic management of infants and neonates, patients with congenital heart disease, the geriatric patient, the diabetic, patients with endocrine dysfunction, and the "difficult" patient are accorded separate chapters. Some basic techniques in anaesthesia, endotracheal anaesthesia, controlled hypotension, hypothermia, artificial respiration, anaesthetic emergencies, fires and explosions, immediate postoperative care, the anaesthetist and respiratory insufficiency, oxygen therapy, and physiotherapy in general surgery are also discussed. The important chapter on medico-legal aspects of general anaesthesia should be read by everyone in our specialty. Woolmer's chapter on "Some Methods of Measurement in Anaesthesia" deals briefly with such entities as: arterial and venous blood pressure measurements, cardiotachometers, electrocardiography, electroencephalography, oximetry, measurement of blood loss, respiratory minute volume measurement, arterial carbon dioxide tension measurement and analysis of gas mixtures. Since the publication of this volume, additional efficient methods and apparatus have been devised for use in some of these studies. Reference lists are found at the end of all but two chapters, and they vary markedly in length. Occasional discussion of local and regional anaesthesia appears in this volume. A few chapters are quite brief.

In both volumes an overlapping of text between two chapters of diverse authorship in no way detracts from the whole, but gives valuable emphasis to certain important points. An interesting variety of views are expressed on some subjects. A few are at variance with some popular beliefs in this country. The reader gains the impression that there is less

use of recovery rooms and immediate post-operative oxygen therapy in England than in the United States.

The binding, paper and printing are excellent. Illustrations are well chosen and excellently reproduced. An adequate index is found at the back of each volume.

Perusal of these books is a richly rewarding experience for any physician, not only because of the wealth of material presented, but also because of the clarity and method of presentation. These books are strongly recommended to all anesthesiologists, and should be in every medical library.

HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

Anaesthetic Accidents. The Complications of General and Regional Anaesthesia. SECOND EDITION. By V. KEATING, M.B., B.Ch., D.A., F.F.A.R.C.S. Consultant Anaesthetist to the Manchester Regional Hospital Board (Burnley and District); formerly Consultant Anaesthetist and Lecturer in Anaesthetics, University College Hospital of the West Indies; Senior Specialist in Anaesthetics, Royal Army Medical Corps. Cloth. \$5.50. Pp. 288, with 14 figures. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 E. Illinois St., Chicago, Ill., 1961.

A compact body of useful knowledge on a vital clinical subject best describes Dr. Keating's work. This book is not long but is comprehensive. All significant anesthetic complications are presented. Each subject is accompanied by pertinent physiologic and pharmacologic considerations to provide a rational basis for management. One may dispute a number of statements, for example, "sudden circulatory failure is certainly more common in these people [Negroes] than in Europeans." However, the material in general is accurate and well documented.

Subjects are divided into appropriate topics and good organization is evident throughout. Reading is generally easy.

This book is recommended reading for all residents, and the practicing anesthesiologist can profit by its perusal.

VINCENT J. COLLINS, M.D.

A Practice of General Anaesthesia for Neurosurgery. By ROBERT I. W. BALLANTINE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A., F.F.A.R.C.S., Consultant Anaesthetist, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; with the collaboration of Ian Jackson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A., Consultant Anaesthetist, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Foreword by J. E. A. O'Connell, M.S., F.R.C.S., Surgeon in Charge, Department of Neurological Surgery, St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Cloth. \$6.50. Pp. 152, with 68 illustrations. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Mass. 1960.

The reluctance of many anesthesiologists to accept responsibility for the care of patients undergoing neurosurgical procedures is often based on inadequate understanding of the central nervous system and lack of an organized plan of approach. This manual provides the opportunity for correction of these deficiencies.

The authors begin with a discussion of problems peculiar to neurosurgery, particularly those of intracranial pressure and cerebral edema. Consideration is given to pre-medication and to agents and techniques used by the authors in their practice. Their methods are uncomplicated, logically conceived, and demonstrably effective.

Situations calling for controlled hypotension and hypothermia and the methods of applying these techniques are described fully.

Additional sections of the book furnish details of the management of individual diseases (with their potential problems), diagnostic procedures, and operations.

A number of effective drawings and reproductions of anesthesia records clearly illustrate the authors' points. The index and bibliography appear to be more than adequate.

It is apparent that the authors have experienced the problems described and have carefully conceived and used their methods. They impress the reader with the necessity for attention to seemingly minute details, and the desirability of an attitude of common sense toward a difficult phase of the practice of anesthesiology.

ROBERT T. PATRICK, M.D.