

Resuscitation of the Newborn Infant. Principles and Practice. EDITED BY HAROLD ABRAMSON, M.D., Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, New York Medical College, New York, N. Y. 24 contributors. Cloth. \$10.00. Pp. 274, with 36 figures. C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, Mo., 1960.

This book covers the comprehensive and complexing problem of resuscitation of the newborn infant. The collective endeavors of many specialists in both clinical and laboratory fields appear in this volume. It presents to the practitioner the respiratory difficulties and related problems of newborn infants. These problems are as old as mankind, yet they have not been satisfactorily solved. The opinions and recommendations advanced in this book do not represent the final work, since changes must of necessity ensue in the approach of the clinician to each infant requiring resuscitation.

Resuscitation of the newborn is not discussed in this book merely in terms of gases and drugs and the application of physical and mechanical methods for respiration in the newborn infant. The concept advanced is total and encompasses the investigation, early recognition and appraisal of all influences operating before conception, during pregnancy, during the birth and immediate post-delivery. All of these factors may possibly contribute to perinatal distress requiring early institution of preventive measures. All of these problems constitute the basic principles of resuscitation in the newborn, and must be considered if resuscitation is to reduce needless fetal and neonatal deaths.

The book is excellently written and organized. The index is excellent; the illustrations, adequate. The printing, paper and binding are far above average. This is a book that every obstetrician, general practitioner, pediatrician and anesthesiologist should have, and he should practice the basic principles so adequately covered.

V. K. STOELTING, M.D.

Surgical Diseases of the Chest. EDITED BY BRIAN BLADES, M.D., Professor of Surgery, The George Washington School of Medicine, Washington, D. C.; Chief Surgeon,

The George Washington University Hospital, Washington, D. C. Cloth. \$22.00. Pp. 580, with 267 illustrations. C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, Mo., 1961.

This text should more properly be titled "Diseases of the Chest Amenable to Surgery." The 16 chapters, over 550 pages of text, summarizes in a very striking fashion the rapid advances and accomplishments of the past three or four decades in thoracic surgery.

As is noted by Dr. Blades in the preface, "This book is written not only for surgeons, but also for medical students and medical practitioners who are interested in what can be accomplished in various diseases by thoracic surgery—although operative techniques will not be entirely neglected, only the essential technical principles for reasonably standardized operations will be included."

The first chapter "Basic Physiology in Thoracic Surgery" is a brief yet excellent anatomical, biochemical, physiological and medical summarization of both the lungs and the heart. It includes descriptions of the most pertinent pulmonary function tests, *i.e.*, timed vital capacity, maximum breathing capacity, ventilatory reserve, etc., as well as anatomical descriptions of each heart valve, the coronary arteries, the specialized physiological properties of the heart, and details of the greater and lesser circulation. Fluid and electrolyte balance, acidosis and alkalosis are reviewed also. The bibliography for this chapter of more than 200 selected references, exemplifies one of the most useful features of this text for those not entirely oriented in the field of thoracic surgery.

Eighteen authors have contributed to this work. In general, each was selected on the basis of two qualifications: (1) original and important contributions in the area of selection, and (2) wide clinical experience. Individual style of writing was allowed. This not only increases interest in the method of presentation, but also leads to some overlapping so that several viewpoints are presented in various areas.

The general make-up of the book is good with large, easily read type. It is rather profusely illustrated with 267 figures. Many of these are roentgenographic reproductions,

some of which have been so reduced in size that they are of little value for the points they are intended to illuminate. Others are excellent, e.g., those in Chapters 11, 12, and 13.

The text was not as carefully proof-read as would have been desired, and numerous factual, as well as typographical, errors occur. In the chapter on anesthesia, page 562, an error in dosage for rectal Pentothal fortunately is on the low side. The amount indicated would have no clinically discernible effect. The use of commercial rather than official names of drugs also is to be deplored.

This is a useful reference for the anesthesiologist. The bibliographical material is excellent. The first and last chapters are most directly applicable to our specialty.

O. SIDNEY ORTH, M.D.

Body Fluids in Surgery. SECOND EDITION.

By A. W. WILKINSON, CH.M., F.R.C.S.E., F.R.C.S. Nuffield Professor of Paediatric Surgery, The Institute of Child Health of the University of London; Surgeon, The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond St., London. Cloth. \$5.00. Pp. 276, with 12 figures and 30 tables. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore 2, Md., 1960, exclusive U. S. agents.

As this British pediatric surgeon admits, there are many aspects of fluid therapy and replacement related to surgery which are not yet understood fully. Nevertheless, there are a number of guide posts which can be utilized, and these are set forth intelligently and in an understandable manner in this volume.

I have been somewhat disturbed recently by the campaign being waged in certain medical centers against the administration of blood prior to surgery when moderate anemia exists, or when there is real or presumptive evidence of a diminished blood volume. Wilkinson states definitively that decreased blood volume and anemia should be treated actively in the preoperative period by small, repeated transfusions. In anemia, he states, treatment by transfusion should continue until the hemoglobin reaches 10.4 g. per 100

ml. This figure may be considered too low by some anesthesiologists in this country.

This volume is worthwhile reading for anesthesiologists; there are numerous clinical pearls which can be utilized in day-to-day practice. However, the ego of the anesthetist may be somewhat dashed by the following statement which appears in the chapter on shock: "Close co-operation between surgeon and anaesthetist is essential, and if the surgeon is unable personally to supervise resuscitation, the anaesthetist is the best alternative person to do so."

C. R. STEPHEN, M.D.

Medical, Surgical and Gynecological Complications of Pregnancy. By the Staff of Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, N. Y. EDITED BY ALAN F. GUTTMACHER, M.D., AND JOSEPH J. ROVINSKY, M.D. Cloth. \$16.50. Pp. 619, with illustrations and tables. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Md., 1960.

This should be an excellent book for the obstetrician. There is a review of spinal anesthesia of less than one page, none of which will be new to the anesthesiologist. There is not even a mention of aspiration pneumonia. This publication seems a little incomplete to be of much help to the anesthesiologist.

ALICE McNEAL, M.D.

The Choice of a Medical Career. EDITED BY JOSEPH CARLAND, M.D., Sc.D. (Hon.), Editor, New England Journal of Medicine, Consultant Editor, British Practitioner, AND JOSEPH STOKES, III, M.D., Associate in Preventive Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Associate Editor, New England Journal of Medicine. Cloth. \$5.00. Pp. 231. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1961.

The subtitle *Essays on the Fields of Medicine* perhaps conveys a better concept of the content of this book. Collected here are twenty-one essays intended to picture the opportunities presented by the profession of medicine to those entering it and "to serve as a guide for channeling of life within the profession."