

## THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

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

**The Conquest of Pain: Achievements of Modern Anaesthesia.** By RONALD WOOLMER, V.R.D., B.S., B.M., F.F.A.R.C.S., Professor of Anaesthesia and Director, Research Department of Anaesthetics, Royal College of Surgeons of England. Cloth. \$4.50. Pp. 240, plus 8 pages of index and notes. Illustrated with 12 half-tones and 8 line drawings. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, New York, 1961.

Dr. Ronald Woolmer, a recognized authority on anaesthesia both in this country and abroad, has written a book for the lay public which presents the scope of anaesthesia. It is written so that it can be understood by those unfamiliar with medical terms or disciplines. Although this book is complete in its coverage of the various facets of the relief of pain both in the operating room and elsewhere, it never becomes boring or profuse.

A discussion of the developmental history of the various techniques and drugs reveals how present-day anesthetic methods evolved, with indications for future refinements. After a simple explanation of the mechanism of pain, the author presents the advantages and disadvantages of local and general anaesthesia. A chapter on protection of the unconscious patient should explain to many the importance of an empty stomach and the need for an endotracheal tube.

The author explains the new techniques of hypotension, hypothermia and extracorporeal circulation, pointing out their efficiency in the hands of the skilled. The auxiliary duties of the anaesthesiologist, such as management of blood replacement, alleviation of chronic pain, and consultation on ventilatory problems, are duly stressed.

The positions of the medical anaesthesiologist and of the nurse anaesthetist are clarified, stressing the need and training of more qualified physicians to meet the demands of present-day radical surgery. Instruments used for physiological monitoring of patients during anaesthesia are scantily described, but serve to

create the impression of dynamic advances along these lines. The last chapter describes basic research that has resulted in the use of present-day drugs and equipment, and promises more to be done in the future for the "safety and the comfort of the patient."

The paper, printing and binding are of acceptable quality. The drawings are simple and explanatory, and the plates showing modern equipment will impress the layman. Although of little scientific value to the anaesthesiologist, this book will vividly and interestingly portray the importance of anaesthesia in the realm of modern medicine and surgery to his nonmedical friends.

DONIS C. GROSSKREUTZ, M.D.

**General Anaesthesia for Dentistry.** By JAMES McNAUGHT INGLIS, M.B., Ch.B., F.F.A.R.C.S. (ENG.) D.A., Consultant Anaesthetist United Birmingham Hospitals, Lecturer in Anaesthetics, School of Dental Surgery, University of Birmingham, and VICTOR CAMPKIN, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S. (ENG.), D.A., Department of Anaesthetics, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Cloth. \$3.00. Pp. 88. Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd., London, 1960. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Maryland, exclusive U.S. agents.

This short book was written expressly for the undergraduate dental student and confines itself to a consideration of the dental out-patient. It contains a concise presentation of the proper preparation of the out-patient for general anaesthesia, and thoroughly covers the various techniques of producing general anaesthesia in these individuals. The greatest stress is placed on the "balanced technique" which consists of the production of narcosis, analgesia, and relaxation without oxygen limitation below air levels. The authors achieve this, after careful selection of patients, with a combination of nitrous oxide, oxygen and trichloroethylene. Pure nitrous oxide is administered while the nose-piece is applied, and