

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 anesthesia both in this country and abroad, has written a book for the lay public which presents the scope of anesthesia. 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 anesthesia. 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 anesthesiologist, such as management of blood replacement, alleviation of chronic pain, and consultation on ventilatory problems, are duly stressed.

The positions of the medical anesthesiologist and of the nurse anesthetist 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 anesthesia 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 anesthesiologist, this book will vividly and interestingly portray the importance of anesthesia in the realm of modern medicine and surgery to his nonmedical friends.

DORIS C. GROSSKREUTZ, M.D.

General Anaesthesia for Dentistry. By JAMES McNAUGHT INGLIS, M.B., Ch.B., F.F.A.R.C.S. (ENC.) 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. (ENC.), 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 anesthesia, and thoroughly covers the various techniques of producing general anesthesia 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

then oxygen added to the nitrous oxide in quantities just sufficient to prevent the appearance of cyanosis, and analgesia with trichloroethylene is introduced. The amount of oxygen required is that which will just prevent cyanosis. It is on this latter point that disagreement will occur. The color of the patient is the sole criterion of the presence or absence of an undesirable level of anoxia. It would appear that the undergraduate dental student will be left without suitable criteria of hypoxia in the anemic patient if the only evidence of inadequate oxygenation is to be cyanosis. The authors include an excellent chapter on intravenous anesthesia, and one on anesthesia in children. With the exception noted, this book should be of value to the undergraduate dental student and to practitioners who do not have extensive experience in this specialized field of anesthetic administration.

FRANCIS M. GHEM, M.D.

Pulmonary Emphysema. EDITED BY ALVAN L. BARACH, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, AND HYLAN A. BICKERMAN, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. Cloth. \$10.00. Pp. 545, with 141 illustrations. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 1956.

This is an authoritative and comprehensive reference book on pulmonary emphysema truly encyclopedic in its coverage. The authors have as contributors 18 well-known authorities who have carried out pertinent and timely investigations of the physiologic and therapeutic aspects of the disease. Each writer was permitted to express his views in detail, even if it resulted in some duplication of material. This completeness of thought is appreciated by the busy practitioner because each chapter is essentially a monograph on a particular aspect of pulmonary emphysema.

The volume is not a mere collection of monographs, however, for the authors have skillfully combined the various chapters into a unified book that progresses logically from Chapter 1, "Pathogenetic and Allied Influences

in Chronic Pulmonary Emphysema," which serves as an introduction by Dr. Barach, to Chapter 18, the epilogue, "Comments on Preceding Chapters," also by Dr. Barach.

Pathogenetic, pathologic, physiologic and pharmacologic considerations are discussed in addition to the therapeutic and diagnostic procedures employed for various types of pulmonary emphysema. A judicious and restrained use of case reports is evident throughout the text and adds much to the interest of the reader. Reproductions of roentgenograms, graphs and diagrams are clear and well chosen. Only a sufficient number of illustrations are included to clarify the text; they do not dominate the book. The bibliography is extensive and should be of considerable value to the research worker.

Every anesthesiologist should be familiar with this reference work.

WILLIAM O. McQUISTON, M.D.

Surgery of the Chest. Second Edition. By JULIAN JOHNSON, M.D., D.Sc. (MED.), Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine and Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, AND CHARLES K. KIRBY, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Illustrated by Edna Hill. Cloth. \$9.75. Pp. 398, with 86 plates of illustrations. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 E. Illinois St., Chicago, Illinois, 1960.

This volume is an atlas of surgical operations involving the entire field of thoracic surgery. The authors' stated purpose is to present details of operative technique in a clear manner and to discuss the physiologic mechanisms which must be thoroughly understood by those who undertake thoracic surgical procedures. The authors express a desire to present material with clarity and simplicity, sufficient that students at any level of training may understand how various operations are performed.

Subject matter of this book begins with a brief discussion of principles of physiology of normal respiration and some alterations in respiration which occur coincident with thoracic disease, thoracic trauma, and thoracic surgery. Diagnostic procedures are alluded to