

half by using the trans-vaginal approach, which is not discussed.

Dr. Victor Vaughn and Dr. William Laupus, in their comprehensive chapter on the newborn infant, recommended that physical examination "should be made with the baby completely unclothed." May we suggest that an appropriate time to perform this examination is in the delivery room before the baby meets such impositions of civilization. Possibly some hidden anomaly may be discovered hours before it produces serious symptoms. This book once again emphasizes the hiatus between the delivery room and the nursery—a time when, as Dr. Murdina Desmond of Baylor University puts it, "I'm nobody's baby."

The obstetrical anesthesiologist would be well advised to read the current literature in obstetrics and pediatrics as a supplement to this book.

VIRGINIA APGAR, M.D.

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**Anesthesia Abstracts, Volume 55.** EDITED BY JOHN S. LUNDY, A.B., D.Sc., LL.D., M.D., Associate Professor Northwestern University Medical School, and Consultant to Veteran's Administration, Chicago, Illinois, AND FLORENCE A. MCQUILLEN, C.R.N.A., Executive Director of American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Fabricord. \$4.00. Pp. 245. Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis 15, Minnesota, 1961.

This volume is a continuation of the plan to present abstracts of important papers dealing with anesthesia and related subjects that have been published in the preceding six months. *Anesthesia Abstracts* was started by Dr. John Lundy in 1937 and is now published three times a year under his direction.

The abstracts are concise and are direct quotations of pertinent sentences or paragraphs rather than resumés or opinions of articles. They give some factual information but are mainly useful in directing the reader to original publications in which he has specific interests. They serve a purpose as a ready reference source for the busy anesthesiologist

who cannot hope to cover the growing mass of material being published monthly in general and specialized medical journals.

This reviewer is not fully satisfied with the list of medical journals covered by the abstractors, and would deem it more profitable to replace those usually subscribed to by the anesthesiologist with journals dealing more with the basic aspects of medicine, pharmacology and physiology.

In spite of the occasional displeasure over the incompleteness of some of the abstracts, *Anesthesia Abstracts* continues to be of service as a reference guide.

DORIS GROSSKREUTZ, M.D.

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**Handbook of Physiology.** FORTY-THIRD EDITION. BY R. J. S. McDOWALL, M.D., D.Sc., M.R.C.P., (LOND.), F.R.C.P. (EDIN.) Emeritus Professor of Physiology, University of London. Cloth. \$12.50. Pp. 759 with 279 illustrations. John Murray, Publisher, London. Distributed in North America by J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1960.

The forty-third edition of this treatise is again edited by Dr. R. J. S. McDowall, who since 1930 has assumed the responsibility of revising and rewriting a text which had its initial printing in 1848. It is obviously designed as a refresher text for medical students preparing for examination, and therefore its scope is limited by its purpose. Although it is alleged to have been brought up-to-date in all areas, notable exceptions to this are deficits in the sections on resuscitation and the reticular activating system. Although the bibliographic references are extensive, the method of referencing is difficult to follow, and few of the references cited are of later date than 1954. The book is exhaustively indexed, but the print is too small to be easily read. For the young medical student this is probably a worthwhile reference text, but it is so incomplete in areas of interest to the anesthesiologist that its purchase does not warrant his serious consideration.

J. GERARD CONVERSE, M.D.