

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by *Huberta M. Livingstone, M.D.*

A History of Thoracic Surgery. By RICHARD H. MEADE, B.S., M.D., Formerly on the Faculty of the University of Virginia Medical School, University of Pennsylvania Medical School and Northwestern University Medical School. WITH A FOREWORD BY EMILE HOLMAN, M.D. Cloth. \$27.50. Pp. 933, with 117 illustrations. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois. 1961.

This monumental historical publication, written by a respected and experienced thoracic surgeon, covers medical practices and surgical procedures upon the thorax from 3000 B.C. to the present. Dr. Meade has personally observed the dramatic advances in this surgery during the past 33 years, and is eminently qualified to produce this instructive volume. The accounts of historical events and procedures are fascinating reading and include instructive details and results. Each of the 45 chapters dealing with various surgical conditions and procedures conclude with a list of valuable references. The final chapter contains photographs and brief biographies of 117 physicians who have made important contributions to thoracic surgery, or have been president of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery. The book concludes with an extensive index.

Nowhere else can such a wealth of information regarding the historical evolution of thoracic surgery be found in one volume. This fascinating book should be read by everyone concerned with diseases of the thorax. Anesthesiologists will enjoy and profit immeasurably from perusal of this easy-to-read volume. This book should be found in every medical school, hospital and historical library. It should appeal to every medical student and physician.

HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

Classics of Medicine and Surgery. COLLECTED BY C. N. B. CAMAC, M.D. (An unaltered republication of the work originally published by W. B. Saunders Co. under the title: EPOCH-MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDICINE, SURGERY AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.) Paper. \$2.25. Pp. 435, with 14 illustrations. Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York 14, New York. 1959.

This compact collection of articles on epoch-making experiments and investigations was gathered by Dr. Camac for use during his teaching. He presents the papers in their original form, or with excellent translations. Through meticulous research he provides accurate biographical sketches and portraits of each author. Among the illustrations are several facsimilies of title pages from original articles. Listing of the author's complete writings appears at the end of each section and provides further insight into each investigator's scientific mind. The table of contents is an adequate index to each section. The paper is of good quality and the print is easy to read. This volume contains Lister's "Antiseptic Principle of the Practice of Surgery"; Harvey's "Motion of the Heart and Blood"; Auenbrugger's "Percussion of the Chest"; Laennec's "Auscultation and the Stethoscope"; Jenner's "Inquiry into Smallpox Vaccine, Further Observations and Continuation of Observations"; Morton's "Administering Sulphuric Ether"; "Physiology of Ether"; Simpson's "A New Anaesthetic Agent"; and Holmes's "Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever."

This fascinating book should be in the library of every physician. The papers are not only of historical interest, but the excitement of these early discoveries and observations makes re-reading enjoyable. For this reason and because of its convenient size, this volume is ideal to carry on plane or train.

RUTH M. ANDERSON, M.D.