

**Diethyl Ether—Its Effects in the Human Body.** By ROBERT B. DODD, M.D., Henry E. Mallinckrodt Professor of Anesthesiology and Head, Division of Anesthesiology, Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri. With a chapter on Metabolic Effects by JOHN P. BUNKER, M.D., Professor of Anesthesia, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, California. Plasticized Cover. \$3.75. Pp. 120. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1962.

This small book on the effects of diethyl ether in the human body offers much comfort and support to those anesthesiologists who are reactionary in maintaining allegiance to that agent. It may also bring some food for thought to those particularly of the younger generation who believe, as a neophyte expressed to this reviewer recently, that "ether is good only for cleaning machines."

The material is arranged in six chapters, the first of which discusses the absorption, distribution and fate of the agent. The three following chapters deal with the effects of ether upon the central nervous system, respiration and circulation. The chapter on metabolism, contributed by Dr. Bunker, summarizes the effects of ether on the liver, kidneys, endocrine system, and upon carbohydrate and fat metabolism, electrolytes, formed elements of the blood and blood coagulation. The last chapter on the clinical use of ether includes technical considerations, some discussion on the effect of combination with other drugs, and evaluation of advantages and disadvantages of ether.

The summarizing sentences of the author are worthy of quotation: "Of the potent general anesthetic agents, ether fits the biologic and statistical requirement [of an ideal anesthetic agent] as well as any and better than most according to data now available. It is still an extremely valuable agent for the production of general anesthesia."

The format is excellent. There are three tables and five figures supplementing the text. The bibliography includes 485 references. This book is highly recommended not only for anesthesiologists and surgeons, but for all physicians and medical libraries.

JULIA G. ARROWOOD, M.D.

**The Chemistry and Physics of Anesthesia.** SECOND EDITION. By JOHN ADRIANI, M.D., Director, Department of Anesthesiology, Charity Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana, Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine, Tulane University; Professor of Clinical Surgery and Pharmacology, Louisiana State University. Cloth. \$28.50. Pp. 849, with illustrations. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1962.

In 1946 the author published "The Chemistry of Anesthesia." For 15 years this remained an important textbook on the basic sciences associated with anesthesia. The author, an eminent teacher of anesthesia, undertook the prodigious task of augmenting the valuable information of the first edition with fundamental basic information which accumulated during the past decade, resulting in this excellent second edition.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I deals with the basic physics and chemistry of solids, fluids, and gases as they apply to anesthesia, together with detailed account of the absorption of carbon dioxide, and concluding with a brief account of gas analysis, including modern methods such as gas chromatography.

Part II is concerned with organic chemistry related to anesthesia and contains detailed up-to-date information on the chemistry and pharmacology of modern organic anesthetic agents, narcotics, barbiturates, tranquilizers, analeptics, and the flammability of anesthetic gases and vapors.

Part III, entitled "Biochemistry Related to Anesthesia," describes the effects of anesthetic agents upon different systems of the body.

The book is printed in easily readable form and illustrated largely with line drawings.

Without a doubt this is Dr. Adriani's best contribution and should be studied by all anesthesiologists who wish to keep pace with modern scientific anesthesia. Even more important, this material should be taught early to those being trained as anesthesiologists. Finally, those engaged in research will find this book a ready reference for the chemistry and pharmacology of substances used in anesthesia.

M. DIGBY LEIGH, M.D.