

# The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

**Anesthesia for the Injured.** BY L. J. WOLFSON, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S., Consultant Anesthetist, Birmingham Accident Hospital. Cloth. \$4.00. Pp. 110, with 15 illustrations. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1962.

The author writes from experience in the organization and functioning of the anesthesia department of the Birmingham Accident Hospital, an institution created 20 years ago to study in detail the surgical, medical and pathological aspects of trauma. He demonstrates that the anesthetist can usefully become a fully integrated member of the team treating injured patients, not only in operating rooms, but also in the management of respiratory and circulatory problems, resuscitation, relief of pain, and a number of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. The book deals comprehensively with the subject of trauma from the standpoint of the anesthetist. Of particular interest is a chapter devoted to physical signs of traumatic shock, and to differential diagnosis, largely based on the research which has been conducted at the Birmingham Accident Hospital. The author includes interesting and helpful discussions on anesthesia in traumatic and operative shock. One chapter is devoted to the problem of the full stomach. All but one chapter has a list of references appended, but the author does not seem to have consulted important comprehensive books and monographs on shock and trauma published since World War II. Despite this fact, this is a unique book based on extensive experience in an important research center, and the information should be of value to anesthesiologists.

RICHARD FOREGGER, M.D.

**Moderne Narkose. Theorie und Praxis der Routineverfahren.** BY DR. MED. HABIL. LOTHAR BARTH, Chief of the Anesthesia Department, AND DR. MED. MANFRED MEYER, Assistant Chief of the Anesthesia Department, Robert-Rössle-Klinik, Berlin,

Germany. With a preface by William W. Mushin, Professor of Anesthetics, Welsh National School of Medicine, University of Wales. Cloth. \$13.40. Pp. 428, with 306 illustrations. VEB Gustav Fischer Verlag, Jena, Germany, 1962.

The instigation for writing this basic text is obviously the lack of such a book in German medical literature. The authors have compiled a vast amount of knowledge of predominantly Anglo-American origin and their own experiences with different types of anesthesia in England and Germany. Very commendable is the approach of integrating questions of physics, chemistry, pharmacology, and physiology which are intimately associated with anesthetic techniques. These different fields are discussed in each of the exceptionally well-illustrated chapters. Theoretical and practical aspects alternate rapidly throughout the text. The excellent presentation of a chapter on respiration and problems involving the use of the Carlens tube merits attention.

Although this book shows almost no typographical errors, a minor contradiction such as "barbiturates produce analgesia" appears on page 51 and the reverse of this statement on page 114. A radical opinion in reference to administration of muscle relaxants which are supposedly not warranted without endotracheal intubation will be challenged by many.

It is safer to encourage the writing of specific dosages of drugs in milligrams if the amount is small. (Example: *Not* 0.0005 Gm., but instead 0.5 mg.) No mention is made of the recently-advocated anesthetic combination of nitrous oxide, barbiturate, and intravenous local anesthetic. The so-called "awake" intubation and treatment of aspiration pneumonia should be discussed.

The "Teutonization" of typical English expressions does not enhance the intelligibility of the text to the German reader. (Example: Dekonnection, Relaxient, Kolumne, Sequena, Insulte, Kompletterien.)