

This monograph would be of interest and value to anyone engaged in investigative work in this field.

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**International Anesthesiology Clinics: Pediatric Anesthesia.** EDITED BY ROBERT M. SMITH, M.D. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, Mass., August, 1962.

This volume introduces a new subscription series. It is intended to present the clinician with "practical, authoritative advice (while it is still fresh) that he can promptly put to use in his own practice." Each volume is to be concerned with both basic science and clinical topics presented by authorities, here and abroad, to make the series reflect an international view of anesthesia practice.

The editor states, "This symposium has been compiled with the intent to supplement rather than duplicate existing texts on pediatric anesthesia . . . only those topics thought to have special current importance have been chosen." When measured against the stated purposes, both editor and publisher have achieved only indifferent success.

Two chapters do meet the above criteria. A well-written, informative chapter on "Roentgen Features of Respiratory Distress in Infants" is a delight to read. Pneumonia, pneumothorax, and pneumomediastinum are well illustrated and discussed. Because the authors have not been able to demonstrate roentgenographic evidence of tracheal obstruction by an enlarged thymus gland, they discard this convenient "waste basket" for respiratory deaths.

The chapter on tracheostomy is timely, and the practices presented are supported by analysis of 156 tracheostomies performed over the last three years. The importance of infection in mortality and morbidity associated with this operation is stressed. A detailed description of the technique used in caring for tracheostomy in children would have enhanced the discussion.

The symposium suffers from lack of unity and from mediocre writing. Different authors present opposing views on the same subject. Conflicting statements appear concerning use of cuffed endotracheal tubes, use of atropine

versus scopolamine and dosages required in nasotracheal intubation, and on respiratory and cardiovascular effects of halothane. Mature readers will discover and evaluate these discrepancies; beginners seeking guidance will be confused.

Although informative, the chapters on pulmonary hypertension, ventilatory status, fluid and electrolyte therapy and transfusion therapy are difficult reading. They contain little that has not appeared elsewhere in a more easily digestible form.

The controversy concerning the use of endotracheal tubes in children—always, never, or sometimes—is presented and discussed. Throughout the text all contributory authors are not in agreement. The discussion of the pediatric airway will be of interest to the beginner.

Anesthesia for tonsillectomy is superficially treated, and conveys little of the grave danger often surrounding this operation. No definitive view is presented on the use of muscle relaxants in children, even though much controversy currently surrounds this problem. The chapter on hypothermia has little reference to its use in children. These defects do not help the symposium measure up to its proposed current usefulness.

The index is poorly compiled with many text references omitted. For example, these subjects are discussed in the text but not mentioned in the index: Brevital, ether, pentothal, rectal anesthesia, tonsillectomy, nitrous oxide and chloroform. Both halothane and Fluothane are indexed but without cross reference to indicate that they are the same agent. According to the index, cyclopropane and halothane are the only anesthetics discussed that are worthy of listing for reference.

The volume is well bound and printed in easily read type. The format is pleasant and illustrations are of excellent quality. This text will have little usefulness for the experienced anesthetist and will often confuse the beginner.

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**Hypnosis in Obstetrics.** BY RALPH V. AUGUST, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.O.G., F.I.C.S., Consultant to the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Mercy Hospital, Muskegon, Michigan. Cloth. \$10.00. Pp. 160, with

15 tables and 4 figures. The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, Toronto, London, 1961.

This is a detailed practical manual on techniques of hypnosis for obstetric patients. Although primarily for the practicing obstetrician, it may also be useful to anesthesiologists. The author, an obstetrician of considerable clinical experience, draws heavily from his own observations of 1,000 consecutive private patients delivered within a three year period.

Approximately two-thirds of the book is devoted to a detailed description of various hypnotic techniques. These include: approach to the patient, induction, group and individual training, and pre-conditioned versus non-conditioned or resistant patients. Typical examples of verbalizations used in training patients are presented in great detail with side comments by the author. A novel teaching aid is the 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  RPM long-playing record which is included in this book. Selected excerpts are presented of tape recordings of six patients undergoing delivery with the aid of hypnoanesthesia.

There are several inaccuracies throughout the book such as "the introduction of ether by Morton in 1842," "sodium pentobarbital (Seconal)," and the use of the incorrect title "J. Am. Soc. Anesthesiologists Inc." instead of "Anesthesiology" in reference 58.

Perhaps the most important message in this book appears in the conclusion: "Hypnosis is one more tool in the obstetrician's armamentarium. Intelligently employed and judiciously integrated into obstetric care, it has much to offer. As a safe ataractic and anesthetic it has no peer today. It may be used to complement other therapy but must never serve to mask inadequate or inexperienced obstetric management."

FRANK MOYA, M.D.

**Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia.** FIFTH EDITION. BY JOHN A. WRIGHT, Professor of Veterinary Surgery in the University of Liverpool; and LESLIE W. HALL, University Lecturer in the Department of Veterinary

Clinical Studies, University of Cambridge. Cloth. \$8.50. Pp. 386, with 118 illustrations. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1961.

Anesthetic technique for large and small domestic animals is presented clearly and authoritatively by the authors in this fifth edition. They state that earlier editions were intended as guides for veterinary students and veterinary surgeons. The scope of this edition has been broadened, in deference to specialists in veterinary anesthesia, through the addition of material on the physiology of anesthesia and the pharmacology of anesthetic drugs. Sections on muscle relaxants and halothane, anesthetic management of intrathoracic and cardiac surgery, and hypothermia in canine surgery, make the book current with popular anesthetic practice.

The sections on local, regional, spinal and epidural analgesia contain superb descriptions and illustrations of the anatomy, indications and techniques of conduction block anesthesia for a wide range of veterinary surgical problems. Those portions of the text, on the other hand, which deal with theory of anesthetic action and explanations of signs and stages of anesthesia are poorly documented, out-of-date and naïve. For example, the authors present as the earliest response to anesthesia: "stage 1. induction, stage or state of voluntary excitement. The animal is conscious and may take forcible efforts to avoid being anesthetized." It may serve a useful purpose to point out to the novice the hazards of fitting a mask to an animal. But the response will be the same whether or not an anesthetic drug is given through the mask, since it is clearly the reaction to restraint which determines the animal's behavior.

This book will serve as a useful guide to all who are concerned with veterinary anesthesia. The laboratory researcher will find many helpful directions for obtaining humane analgesia or anesthesia in experimental animals with minimal interference with normal body functions.

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