

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

Local Analgesia, Abdominal Surgery. SECOND EDITION. EDITED BY SIR ROBERT MACINTOSH, D.M., F.R.C.S. (EDIN) F.F.A.R.C.S., M.D. (HON. CAUSA), Buenos Aires and Aix-Marseilles, Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetics, University of Oxford, Hon. Civilian Consultant in Anaesthetics, Royal Air Force; AND R. BRYCE SMITH, M.A., D.M., F.F.A.R.C.S., Consultant Anaesthetist, United Oxford Hospitals, Clinical Lecturer in Anaesthetics, University of Oxford, late First Assistant, Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics, University of Oxford, Examiner F.F.A.R.C.S. Illustrated by Miss M. McLarty. Cloth. \$5.00. Pp. 82, with 91 figures. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1962.

This is a timely publication, especially for those in the United States where this subject has been neglected. This small book is a good illustration of how interest in regional local anesthesia may be revived.

This publication covers operations within the abdomen and on the abdominal wall. The techniques presented are specific and well illustrated. Some of the illustrations are in color. If the techniques described are employed, there will be a minimum of anesthetic danger, and operations may be performed with satisfaction to both surgeons and patients.

To learn to use regional local anesthesia requires effort. Unfortunately, most of the centers that teach anesthesia techniques seldom use regional or local anesthesia. For this reason, fewer and fewer qualified individuals in general anesthesia are able to do satisfactory regional or local anesthesia. This, means that there is a very restricted choice of anesthetics even among the individuals who are considered to be best in this particular field.

It is a great satisfaction to have such a book published at this time when it is so greatly needed. This need must be felt in England as

well as in this country, and greater attention must be focused on the need for this type of anesthesia. Anesthetists and surgeons will not find a better or more timely book for use both in the operating room and for spare-time perusal.

JOHN S. LUNDY, M.D.

A Study of Psychophysical Methods for Relief of Childbirth Pain. BY C. LEE BUXTON, M.D., Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Yale University School of Medicine. Cloth. \$4.75. Pp. 116. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1962.

The author presents an objective study of psychophysical practices for relieving pain in childbirth as well as the theories advanced for their support. Six concise chapters are devoted to descriptions of the following: Pavlovian Conditioned Reflex Methods, Natural Childbirth—The Grantly Dick Read and Helen Heardman Method, Autogene Training, Hypnosis, Combined Techniques and Various Exercises (muscular, relaxation and breathing). It is indicated that the positive power of appropriately organized psychological reactions may control painful stimuli during labor and delivery. The significance of support during labor and the role of the trained midwife as well as that of the husband are also described.

This textbook is well written, timely and provocative. The subject matter has been dealt with in a detached and objective manner. It is of interest to all who are concerned with the psychological status of the parturient woman, and the welfare of the newborn infant. This book is therefore recommended reading for anesthesiologists as well as for obstetricians, psychiatrists, psychologists and sociologists.

P. C. LUND, M.D.