

Eighty pages in this first of three volumes of a plastic and reconstructive surgery text are devoted to anesthesiology. A brief historical section emphasizes the contributions of Dieffenbach to plastic surgery and the early uses of general anesthesia. Basic physiology of respiration, circulation and pharmacology as applied to anesthetic drugs or drugs used during anesthesia are presented. A main portion of the section is devoted to clinical techniques for general anesthesia with special emphasis on anesthesia machines, ventilators, and airway maintenance with endotracheal intubation. There is no discussion of regional anesthesia. The concluding section emphasizes the need for specialty training in anesthesiology.

This book is a primer of anesthesia written in German especially suited to the education of medical students, surgeons, and beginning anesthesiologists. The author has selected for emphasis areas concerned primarily with anesthesia for plastic surgery.

Though the book is bound with a paper cover, the type of paper, illustrations, bibliography, and general organization are well done.

D. W. EASTWOOD, M.D.

Physiological Pharmacology. A Comprehensive Treatise. EDITED BY WALTER S. ROOT and FREDERICK G. HOFMANN, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York City. Volume I, The Nervous System—Part A, Central Nervous System Drugs. Pp. 703, with illustrations. Cloth. \$22.50. Academic Press, New York and London, 1963.

This is the first volume of a ten-volume work designed to be an authoritative account of effects of drugs on physiological systems. Topics and contributors of reviews are selected by the editors and a group of distinguished scientists comprising the Editorial Advisory Board. The purpose of this treatise is not to merely summarize recent data, but to record and interpret all significant findings regardless of age, and to portray the framework of experimental evidence upon which current concepts of drug action are built. Both animal and human data are treated equally. This treatise is intended for teachers, students and investigators in pharmacodynamics.

Volume I concerns Depressant Drugs and includes dissertations on general anesthetics, alcohols, sedatives and hypnotics, and analgesic and antipyretic drugs. These titles make the book of considerable interest to anesthesiologists. The opening chapter, by Adriani, on absorption, distribution, and elimination of general anesthetics, is a condensation of material readily available to anesthetists. The second chapter, by Ngai, combines a wide scope of information of value, is well written and has a good bibliography. The chapters on bar-

biturates should prove to be excellent sources of information for practical and theoretical aspects of action of these drugs. The chapter on strong analgesics although well written, particularly concerning concepts of pain and mode of action of narcotics, seems somewhat abbreviated when compared with the succeeding chapter on non-narcotic analgesics. The dissertation on phenothiazines and on Rauwolfia derivatives are good condensations of information and references.

This treatise suffers the inevitable defect of a lack of uniformity among the contributors. Several bibliographies are not as up-to-date as they might be, and occasionally important work at the end of the last decade is omitted. Often the interpretation of existing data is not as complete as the reader might desire. Nonetheless, there is much to be derived from this comprehensive volume. In addition to being a good standard library reference, it will be a worthwhile addition to an anesthetic residency library and for those in anesthesia involved in drug investigation.

The book is in easy-to-read print and is bound satisfactorily. It is well indexed.

JAMES E. ECKENHOFF, M.D.

Clinical Applications of Cardiopulmonary Physiology. BY M. HENRY WILLIAMS, JR., M.D., Associate Prof. Medicine and Physiology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Director of Chest Service, Bronx Municipal Hospital Center, N. Y. Cloth. \$7.50. Pp. 233, with 27 figures. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Division of Harper & Brothers, New York City, 1960.

This book was written by an experienced teacher to provide a practical guide for students and general physicians. Its virtues are clarity, brevity, and simplicity in discussing a complicated subject. A rather small number of well selected figures (27) and tables (6) provide adequate illustration of the material. The bibliography is large but not exhaustive.

The inter-relation between heart and lungs is stressed, in that both are required to provide for gas exchange of the body cells. The author speaks of the "lung pump" and the "double heart pump," their connecting tubes, and the surrounding tissues. After reviewing their normal function, he discusses the diseases which may affect them, and the ways in which their functions are altered. Two chapters deal with physiological testing techniques, demonstration of what is wrong, indications for tests, and the value of information obtained. One chapter deals with physiological indications for chest surgery, and the functional alterations which follow.

Large, clear type, and many topic headings make the book easy to read. As review reading, it is recommended for students and practitioners.

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