

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

Shock: INTERNATIONAL ANESTHESIOLOGY CLINICS. EDITED BY S. G. HERSHEY, M.D., New York University Medical Center. Volume 2, No. 2, February, 1964. Pp. 466, with 91 figures and 20 tables. Cloth. Yearly subscription (four volumes), \$22.00. Foreign Subscription \$25.00. Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

This volume collects together very well indeed summaries of results obtained by workers using varied approaches to the problem of shock. It is surprising that 16 chapters written by different authors show essentially no repetition in the presentation, yet each concept is coordinated with results of others in the field. The role of the heart, liver, peripheral vascular system, blood, reticuloendothelial system, and enzymes are all elaborated. Metabolism, sepsis, vasopressors and vasodilators are discussed with presentation of adequate laboratory data. Even though, as the editor states in his preface, ". . . At this moment, the critical shock mechanism still remains an elusive entity," it is nevertheless true that "The collective effort—affords a most valuable, comprehensive, and updated source of information on the subject." The book is pleasingly bound and printed, and is recommended to anyone who wants to be aware of the current status of knowledge in this field.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.

Handbook of Pediatric Medical Emergencies.

THIRD EDITION. BY ADOLPH G. DESANCTIS, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Post-Graduate Medical School, New York University-Bellevue Medical Center; Consultant in Pediatrics, University Hospital, New York University-Bellevue Medical Center, New York City, AND CHARLES VARGA, M.D., Chief, Department of Pediatrics, The Permanente Clinic and Bess Kaiser Hospital, Portland, Ore.; Clinical Instructor of Pediatrics, University of Oregon Medical School, Portland, Oregon, and Contributors. Pp. 457, with 85 illustrations. Cloth. \$12.75. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1963.

This is one of the most authoritative books published in the field of Pediatric Medical Emergencies. The authors are ably assisted by nine eminent contributors who are well known in various fields of pediatric medicine. For those unfamiliar with the first two editions of this book, we wish to emphasize that this is a reference manual, written in concise, outline form for quick reference in emergency situations where time is of the utmost importance. The authors emphasize that the information in this manual is merely a guide, and that individualization of care remains of utmost importance.

This is not intended as a complete text of pediatrics, consequently only those conditions which call for rapid emergency therapy are included. The authors wisely refrain from lengthy discussions of any one emergency situation. In some instances, a few sentences suffice to cover the situation; in others, causes, symptoms and signs, treatment and prognosis are included in outline form. Seldom does the discussion of any emergency cover more than a page or two, and frequently, it is no more than a paragraph. Seldom have I seen such a wealth of valuable, usable information condensed into such small space. Of necessity, the treatment outlines are didactic, but therapy recommended in that which generally has been used with good results. If, after the emergency situation is under control, the reader wishes more information on the subject, an excellent current bibliography appears at the end of each chapter.

Careful organization facilitates rapid reference. The many emergency situations covered are grouped under major classifications, each of which constitutes one of the sixteen chapters. Even the chapter headings are simplified, *e.g.*, Chapter 1 Cardiovascular Emergencies; Chapter 2 Metabolic Emergencies; etc. At the beginning of each chapter is a list of the specific emergencies discussed. Each section of a chapter, whether it is a paragraph or a full page in length, has a heading in bold type, *e.g.*, Genitourinary Hemorrhage.