

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 I 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.

Since the anesthesiologist is frequently the first senior staff physician to reach the emergency room, he should find the book invaluable, particularly in treating emergencies with which he is only vaguely familiar. Actually, the book would prove of equal value to any physician since there are very few emergencies not covered in the outlines.

Of unusual interest is the Appendix which lists "Commercial sources of poisons and poisons generally found in household articles," "The physician's responsibilities in cases of poisoning," "Accident prevention," and "Dosages of drugs commonly used in emergencies. . . ." The book is well printed, on an excellent grade of paper, and the illustrations are clear and informative.

This book should be in every emergency room, as well as in the operating room suite.

WILLIAM O. MCQUISTON, M.D.

Appraisal of Current Concepts in Anesthesiology. VOLUME 2. EDITED BY JOHN ADRIANI, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana. Pp. 478. Cloth. \$10.75. C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1964.

This is the second edition of the collection of miniature reviews that have been prepared by the staff and residents in the Department of Anesthesiology at Charity Hospital and edited by Dr. Adriani. It is somewhat larger than the first volume, which was published in 1961, but quite similar in format and style. In all, 45 different topics are covered. Although there is some overlap in context and content between the two volumes (as an example, both editions have a section on heart sounds during anesthesia), most of the subject matter in the present volume is new.

The stated aim of the book is to bridge the gap that exists between publication of material in medical journals and inclusion in textbooks on anesthesiology and related fields. The great disadvantage of this type of predigestion of the literature is that the reader must accept the interpretations of another and so cannot employ or develop his own critical faculties of evaluation. On the other hand, the type of precis found in this volume can give a rather clear picture of a subject that has been of particular interest in anesthesiology during the past several years, and this can be of great help to the novice and to those who cannot or will not keep up with current literature.

DAVID M. LITTLE, JR., M.D.

Anesthesia for Infants and Children. SECOND EDITION. BY ROBERT M. SMITH, M.D., Anesthesiologist, The Children's Medical Center,

Boston, Mass., Assistant Clinical Professor of Anesthesia, Harvard Medical School. Pp. 470, with 191 illustrations. Cloth. \$13.50. The C. V. Mosby Company, Saint Louis, 1963.

It is now apparent that we have a true textbook of pediatric anesthesia, and it is one of very few available "textbooks" relating to this subject. Dr. Smith is to be congratulated on attention to detail, evaluation of the new without forsaking values of the old, and lucid style of writing which are present in this second edition. The excellent illustrations serve to emphasize the importance of fundamental care.

There is really little in this volume with which one may take issue. As the author states in relation to anesthesia for tonsillectomy, the argument still rages as to whether an endotracheal technique should be employed for this operation. However, one might query his suggestion that in a moderate head-down position "full control of the airway can be maintained without intubation." Our experience would tend to negate this statement.

The chapter on "Anesthetic Complications" is a gem which should be thoroughly perused by all anesthesiologists. In this rapidly expanding subspecialty of anesthesia, it is hoped that the author can adhere to his schedule of a new edition every four years.

C. R. STEPHEN, M.D.

The Atrioventricular Node and Selected Cardiac Arrhythmias. BY DAVID SCHERF, M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Clinical Medicine, New York Medical College, AND JULES COHEN, M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Professor of Medicine, New York Medical College. Pp. 466. Cloth. \$18.75. Grune & Stratton, New York and London, 1964.

David Scherf is well known for his electrocardiographic studies on arrhythmias, having written many papers and two earlier books on the general subject. The origins and compass of the present work are clearly defined in the preface. Having observed certain unusual arrhythmias, the literature was reviewed in detail. A series of loosely connected essays emerged which, when too voluminous for journalistic publication, were gathered into book form. Because of an assumed relation of the arrhythmias to the A-V node, chapters on anatomy, histology, histochemistry and physiology of the node were added. According to the authors much of the work in this field is controversial and their views are not necessarily in agreement with those of others.

There is little here of immediate interest to the anesthesiologist, with only rare reference to anes-