

Books written by several authors tend to be uneven and, in the present one, the range of inequality seems to be numerically related to the size of the cast which may well represent a record. Some chapters are excellent, giving the concrete and precise information needed by the pharmacologist and the clinical investigator. Too many others, however, deal in vague generalities and do not even supply the pertinent references to the appropriate techniques. There is, in general, very little critical evaluation of the methods. One would think that, in a work like this, the editors should have been allowed to exercise their discretion to assure more uniform standards and stricter adherence to the aims of the book. Editorial comments appended to some of the chapters do not fulfill this purpose.

There are very few complete omissions. Among these, anesthesiologists will miss a chapter on pharmacological evaluation of local anesthetics. The subject index which should be a vital part of any reference book is woefully inadequate.

Although the book falls somewhat short of its objectives, one must consider that it represents a pioneering effort. Since it is the only book of its kind at present, it will be a useful source of information for workers engaged or interested in drug testing.

GEORGES UNGAR, M.D., D.Sc.

Dringliche Handchirurgie (Emergency Surgery of the Hand). By Prof Dr. med Erik Moberg, Sahlgrenska Sjukhuset, Göteborg, Sweden. With a Foreword by Priv.-Doz. Dr. F. W. Rathke, Ludwigsburg, Germany. Paper. DM 7.80 (about \$2). Pp. 70, with 38 illustrations. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany, 1964.

This small booklet is primarily intended for residents in orthopedic surgery and presents only a few pages of interest to anesthesiologists. It is gratifying to note the author's warning of the dangers of digital nerve blocks. He also cautions against local infiltration of anesthetic solutions into traumatized tissues. Median nerve block at the wrist and ulnar nerve block at the elbow are preferred and cursorily described. Brachial plexus block is described according to the old Kulenkampff method. The axillary approach to the brachial plexus as described by Adriani and, later, by de Jong and other authors, is not mentioned. An interesting point in favor of nerve blocks over general anesthesia which, heretofore, has received little attention is the inhibition of sweating produced by nerve blocks. Pathogenic microorganisms that may lie dormant within the glandular lumen may be "secreted" to the surface and contribute to contamination of the operative field. Inhibition of sweating along the blocked area will promote sterility. Based on the same principle—sympathetic nerve block associated with either conduction anesthesia or nerve injury—the loss of

sweating serves as an objective sign of loss of tactile function. The ninhydrin test for aminoacids in sweat of finger prints is described in detail and found to be of greater informative value than pin prick or two-point discrimination test.

It is a pleasure to read this clean little book; the text is clear and concise; quality of print, paper and illustrations is excellent. Literature references are omitted since a bibliography would be out of place in a pocket book of this sort.

W. H. MANNHEIMER, M.D.

Hypnosis in Anesthesiology. EDITED BY JEAN LASSNER, M.D. Paper. DM 8.50. Pp. 51. Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Göttingen-Heidelberg, 1964.

This is a record of an International Symposium held at the First European Congress of Anesthesiology of the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists. The Chairman of the Symposium, Jean Lassner, M.D., and 15 panelists discuss the nature of hypnosis, doctor-patient relationships, indications, combinations with drugs, some clinical aspects and dangers. While the interchanges between these practitioners of the art of hypnosis, unsubstantiated in this publication by experimental results or references, may be useful to those particularly interested in this field, most anesthesiologists will not find them useful. Particularly lucid and to the point, however, are comments by Milton Marmer.

D. W. EASTWOOD, M.D.

Narcotics and Narcotic Antagonists. CHEMISTRY, PHARMACOLOGY, AND APPLICATION IN ANESTHESIOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS. BY FRANCIS F. FOLDES, M.D., Chief, Division of Anesthesiology, Montefiore Hospital, New York City; MARK SWERDLOW, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S., Consultant Anaesthetist, Salford Royal Hospital, Manchester, England, and EPHRAIM S. SIKER, M.D., Director, Department of Anesthesiology, Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh. Cloth. Pp. 425, with 39 illustrations. Publication No. 598 American Lecture Series. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1964.

The authors of this reference book have had many years of experience in the use of narcotics, narcotic antagonists, and related compounds in the practice of anesthesia and obstetrics. They have been highly successful in summarizing, both from their own experiences and from an extensive (1,575 items) reference list, the pertinent information needed by the practicing anesthetist or obstetrician, the general practitioner, and other specialists—all of whom must manage pain or acute narcotic intoxication. An extensive glossary of terms should prove helpful to many.

The book is divided into basic and clinical sections. In the former the chemistry and pharmacology of narcotics are described, and there are chap-

ters on the physiology of pain and the assessment of analgesia. In the latter section, chapters describe the needs, principles and procedures for premedication, supplementation and after-care. The advantages and limitations of available compounds and the methods for their use are presented. The discussions of concomitant use of tranquilizers with narcotics will be of particular interest to practitioners.

The styles of writing and printing contribute greatly to making this a valuable reference volume. Short sections are well designated by heavier print and the text material is very well prepared. The limitations of the book are to a great extent dictated by the vastness of the field. Despite the extensive bibliography, there is a considerable dependence on secondary sources, such as reviews, and the discussions of applications of the drugs in many instances describe the authors' personal experiences rather than objective comparisons of the experiences of many. These minor criticisms should not detract appreciably from the value of the books as a summary of the authors' many years of experience in this field.

R. M. FEATHERSTONE, PH.D.

A Guide to Learning Fluid Therapy. By DANIEL C. DARROW, M.D., Director of Babies Hospital Research Center, Wilmington, North Carolina. Cloth. \$9.75. Pp. 280, with 23 illustrations. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1964.

The author is a well-known pediatrician who was formerly Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Kansas and Yale University. He is eminently qualified to discuss fluid therapy, and during the past 20 years has written numerous articles dealing with this subject.

This authoritative scientific textbook contains 21 chapters which deal with every conceivable aspect of fluid therapy expressed in chemical terminology. The prime purpose of the author is to teach physicians to utilize scientific principles when prescribing fluids for their patients, regardless of age or general condition. The book is concise, well written and reasonably easy to understand. It is recommended reading for anesthesiologists, particularly those studying for board examinations, and would thus be a worth-while addition to all medical libraries and Anesthesiology Departments.

P. C. LUND, M.D.

Xylocaine. The Pharmacological Basis of Its Clinical Use. SECOND EDITION. By STEN WIEDLING. Cloth. Pp. 148, with 28 figures. Almqvist & Wiksell, Stockholm, Göteborg, Uppsala, 1964.

This is the second edition of a monograph which was so popular that it required a second printing.

The author has long studied the pharmacology of local anesthetics, and has worked with this drug for over a dozen years.

A brief history of the drug is followed by information regarding its chemical and physical properties. Two short chapters are devoted to the mechanism of action of local anesthetics. Potency, duration, sites of action, systemic and toxic effects are discussed. Actions on the heart, smooth muscle, striated muscle, and blood pressure are considered. New information is given on the metabolic breakdown and excretion of the drug.

A great mass of information is compressed into a small space, by utilizing numerous charts, graphs, and diagrams. The very extensive bibliography on local anesthetics would be useful as a starting point for a detailed study. The book is strongly recommended for pharmacologists and practicing anesthesiologists.

JAY JACOBY, M.D.

Curare. Its History and Usage. By K. BRYN THOMAS, M.B., F.F.A.R.C.S. Cloth. \$6.50. Pp. 144, with 15 illustrations. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1963.

This little volume, written by a practicing anesthesiologist, deals primarily with the historical aspects of the discovery and clinical use of curare. In the first part, the author summarizes in an easily readable form, the story told in McIntyre's classical work on curare. In the second part, the story of curare is brought up-to-date and in the appendix a brief outline of other relaxant drugs is presented. There is an interesting chapter on anatomy and physiology of the neuromuscular junction. This is followed by brief discussions of anesthetic and other medical uses of curare.

It is regrettable that the author did not pay more attention to the compilation of the "Appendix." Mytolon and benzoquinonium, although one is the trade name and the other the generic name of the same compound, are listed as if they were two different agents. The classification of relaxant drugs is not systematic. It lists penta-, hexa- and decamethonium under "Bisquaternary Salts," then enumerates dimethyl d-tubocurarine, succinylcholine, laudexium, etc., under separate headings as if these were not bisquaternary ammonium compounds and discusses Mylaxen and other agents under the heading of "Other Bisquaternary Compounds." The list of "Comparative Reviews of Relaxant Drugs" is incomplete, not up-to-date and "insular."

Despite the shortcomings of the "Appendix," those interested in the historical aspects of curare can spend a few pleasant hours in reading this monograph.

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