

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

Drugs In Anaesthetic Practice. SECOND EDITION. BY F. G. WOOD-SMITH, M.A., M.B. (CANTAB.), F.F.A.R.C.S., Lecturer in Anesthetics, Postgraduate Medical School of London, AND H. C. STEWART, M.A., M.D. (CANTAB.), PH.D. (LONDON), M.R.C.P., Head of Department of Pharmacology, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London. Cloth. \$14.75. Pp. 523, with illustrations. Butterworth Inc., London and Washington, 1964.

This second edition keeps up-to-date the pharmacology of anesthetic drugs, including, for example, a discussion of the recently-revised use of intravenous agents for regional analgesia. There are a few instances of statements with which the editor fails to agree, or which should have been included. On page 23 the book states: "Pethidine, although it has no sedative action . . ." is one example. On page 78 the precautions listed for reserpine fail to include anything concerning hypotension when administered in conjunction with anesthetic agents. Theories of anesthetic action do not include that of Pauling or Miller. Drug treatment of bronchospasm is not adequately covered in the section on antihistaminics or the chapter on bronchodilators. Such differences are minor, and in fact, anyone writing a book of such scope must certainly make choices of what should be included that would differ from those by others in the field. A chapter new in this edition is by Barber on antibacterial drugs.

The index includes the names of the drugs discussed, not their uses.

This is a brief pharmacology book recommended to those interested in just what the title suggests.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.

Neurosurgical Anaesthesia. BY A. R. HUNTER, M.D., F.R.C.S. (GLAS.), F.F.A.R.C.S., D.A., Consultant Anaesthetist to The Royal Infirmary, Manchester; Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport and The Regional Thoracic Centre, Baguley Hospital, Manchester. Cloth. \$7.50. Pp. 211, with 44 illustrations. F. A. Davis Co., Philadelphia, 1964.

This work, a combination text and reference source, is a representation of the author's ideas as to how neurosurgical anesthesia should be practiced, based upon extensive experience of 20 years in neurosurgical work. It does not represent re-

sults of investigations, and suggestions made are admittedly those of clinical impression.

As a collection of the author's clinical impression over several years, there are of course many statements which are controversial and with which agreement will be difficult for people having other experiences and interpretations. Some of the concepts are sufficiently debatable that they should be presented as controversy. It is this reviewer's opinion, therefore, that this book is of value in expressing what one person or what one clinic feels about a particular anesthesia problem and does not represent new and different ideas which are not available in other texts or reference sources.

This book is interesting reading from the standpoint of developing one author's ideas. I would not recommend it as a source of information for one who had not done neurosurgical anesthesia in the past.

WILLIAM K. HAMILTON, M.D.

The History of Surgical Anesthesia. BY THOMAS E. KEYES, Rochester, Minn. Paperback \$2.00. Pp. 193 with illustrations. Dover Publications, Inc., New York City, 1963.

It is a pleasure to see this old friend appearing in a paperback edition. Twenty years ago, Mr. Keys established himself as the outstanding American historian when this book was first published.

It is unfortunate that the book has not been uniformly brought up-to-date. There is a new preface dated November 1962, and a separately stapled, easily lost, eight-page supplement to the Chronology of Events, which stops at 1953. This new material is not indexed. The book would be much more valuable if the exciting new developments of the last decade had also been included.

Even more surprising, in the *New York State Journal of Medicine*, January 15, 1965 (pages 303-312) in an article entitled "The Hospital Medical Library," Mr. Keys paradoxically omits any anesthesiology journal from the list of 100 recommended medical journals. He does recommend 16 books on the subject but modestly omits the present volume.

The serious student of anesthesia would do well not to overlook Dr. Stanley Sykes' two-volume "Essays on the First Hundred Years of Anesthesia" published by Livingstone.

VIRGINIA APGAR, M.D., M.P.H.