

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by Huberta M. Livingstone, M.D.

Milestones in Anesthesiology. Readings in the Development of Surgical Anesthesia, 1665-1940. By FRANK COLE, M.D. Cloth. \$6.50. Pp. 290. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska., 1965.

This book is a compilation of 45 original articles which the editor, Dr. Cole, considers important contributions to the development of knowledge needed for an understanding of modern anesthesiology. Each of the articles is preceded by the editor's commentary. He has selected articles which announce an invention of prime importance or which contains the pioneer's account of what he did and how he came to do it. Thus there are assembled here the writings of Snow and Morton on ether anesthesia, Karl Koller on cocaine, James Simpson on chloroform, Macewen on endotracheal intubation and others. It is to be expected that there will be some disagreement on selections from the vast literature upon which anesthesiology is based. There are also some statements which are erroneous. Pravaz, as usual, is credited with the invention of the hypodermic syringe in 1853. Pravaz did not invent the hypodermic syringe and this legend was completely demolished by N. Howard-Jones in "A Critical Study of the Origins and Early Development of Hypodermic Medication" (*Journal History of Medicine* 2: 201-247, 1947). Corning is credited with being the first to introduce spinal analgesia. The truth is Corning's writings attracted little attention at the time and it is certain that they had no influence upon the ultimate adoption of spinal analgesia into surgery. By contrast the important work of the Kiel surgeon August Bier is omitted.

Nevertheless the majority of the articles selected are representative of original advances in knowledge important to the development of anesthesiology. Here they are conveniently bound together in one volume.

RICHARD FOREGGER, M.D.

Physiology and Biophysics of the Circulation. By ALAN C. BURTON, PH.D., Professor and Head of the Dept. of Biophysics, Medical School, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. Cloth. \$8.50. Pp. 217 with 113 figures. Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1965.

This monograph, written by a well-known biophysicist devoted to the study of the circulation, is intended for the medical student, and the author claims it will be inadequate for the graduate student. The text concentrates on ideas rather than on facts, since new facts are added and old ones amended so fast that most texts are out-of-date before reaching print. By concentrating on ideas, the author hopes to establish some permanency to his monograph. If students understand the ideas, they would have to pass the examinations. In general, the writer is dogmatic and does not engage in controversy. When he expresses personal opinion and recognizes other physiologists may disagree with him, he sets off his statements with special symbols. Most students do not read references, so the bibliographies at the end of chapters are brief with deference to reviews, symposia and monographs. The organization of the material is more according to the principles of the circulation rather than to specific topics. There are five broad sections entitled: The Circulating Fluid, Blood; The Vascular Bed; The Energetics of the Circulation; The Heart and Its Action; and The Regulation of the Circulation. Each section is divided into 3 to 7 chapters. The coverage of all material dealing with circulatory physiology that is important to the average physician is well presented.

This monograph is lucidly written. The author sprinkles his "ideas" liberally with humor, since, as he says, ". . . students remember the things taught in a dramatic, exaggerated, or amusing way, when they have forgotten everything else in the lectures." His introductory chapter on "Why