The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

Practice of Hypnosis in Anesthesiology. By CARL A. COPPOLINO, M.D. Cloth. $6.50. Pp. 204. Grune & Stratton, New York and London, 1965.

This timely textbook deals with hypnosis in a truly scientific manner. It is well written in a clear and concise fashion, thus the subject matter can be easily understood even by the uninitiated in the field of hypnotherapy. It is pointed out that anesthesiology and hypnosis are closely interrelated and therefore a basic knowledge of this field is essential for all anesthesiologists.

All essential aspects of hypnosis and hypnotherapy are discussed including selection of patients, techniques of induction and contraindications. Particular emphasis is placed upon hypnosis in the preoperative, operative and postoperative phase including the management of painful syndromes. It is noted that prior instruction in psychiatry is essential before utilizing hypnotherapy. A few of the common misconceptions regarding hypnosis are debunked, such as hypnosis weakening the mind of the patient.

This book is recommended reading for all anesthesiologists, and should be particularly valuable for those who consider utilizing hypnotherapy in in their daily practice. An extensive bibliography is included.

P. C. LUND, M.D.

Radioisotopes and Circulation. EDITED BY GUNNAR SEVELIUS, M.D., Associate Professor in Research and Instructor in Medicine, University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, Oklahoma City. Cloth. $13.00. Pp. 307, with illustrations. Little, Brown & Company, Boston, 1965.

This monograph contains some 15 essays written by American authors on the physical, physiologic and mathematic concepts underlying radioisotopic techniques for measurement of flow and volume of blood. In a brief but lucid introduction, S. S. Kety, a pioneer in this field, recalls the contributions of two nineteenth century physiologists: Adolf Fick and the theoretical aspects of measurement of steady state blood flow; and, G. N. Stewart, who first applied the dilution principle by means of the intravenous injection of salt solution and subsequent measurement of changes in conductivity in arterial blood. Myron Prinzmetal, writing on history, dates the beginnings of radioisotopic methods as early as 1927. The field developed fitfully after this: only in the last ten years, with ample material made available by the Atomic Energy Commission, has the application of these techniques really burgeoned.

There are excellent introductory chapters on instrumentation and fundamentals of data interpretation. Anesthesiologists who have kept up with the literature will be conversant with a good deal of the material in the chapters on blood volume and brain circulation. Other discussions of interest to anesthesiologists are those on cardiac output, coronary, liver, renal and extremity blood flow. The great advantage of these new methods is the avoidance of sampling by the use of surface scanning; many of the procedures used, however, supply qualitative rather than quantitatively important measurements.

This book is meant to be read by the clinician and it will be a useful reference for the beginner in investigation. It is quite readable and contains a comprehensive bibliography, largely the work of the contributors to the volume.

LEROY D. VANDAM, M.D.

Local Anaesthetics as Anticonvulsants. A STUDY ON EXPERIMENTAL AND CLINICAL EPILEPSY. By CARL GUSTAF BERNHARD, M.D., Professor of Physiology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, AND EINAR BOHM, M.D., Professor of Neurosurgery, Uppsala University, Uppsala. Cloth. Sw. kr. 25:00. Pp. 100, with 39 figures. Almqvist & Wiksells, Uppsala, 1965.

This startling title brings information to those of us who thought we fully understood the actions of local anesthetics. We look mostly for untoward side effects, and now we read of beneficial results in certain conditions. Thirty-nine figures show data and tracings of EEG results of electrically produced fits, and of treatments used; 187 authors and references appear in the index. The authors' summary is as follows: "Various concepts of the cause and nature of the epileptic fit and problems connected with the treatment of epilepsy are at the centre of neurological, neurophysiological and neuropharmacological research.

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