

"In view of the characteristics of the anticonvulsive effect of local anaesthetics a treatment with intravenous lidocaine appears to be of special interest in cases in which it is of importance rapidly to abolish a status epilepticus and to suppress it without causing sedation.

"A survey is here presented of the investigations serving as a theoretical basis for the treatment of status epilepticus with intravenous lidocaine. The clinical results obtained by this treatment are reported. There is also an outline for the treatment of status epilepticus with intravenous lidocaine based on the results of the laboratory experiments and the clinical experience gained so far."

JOHN S. LUNDY, M.D.

The Adrenals and Resuscitation. By MIKHAIL GRIGOR'EVICH KOLPAKOV. Translation from the Russian by Basil Haigh, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. Paper. \$17.50. Pp. 105, with illustrations. Consultants Bureau, New York, 1965. The original Russian text was published by Meditsina in Moscow, 1964.

Reports of medical research in the United States follow a consistent pattern. The author states the problem, the method and the results; discussion and summary follow in (hopefully) concise and logical form. Unfortunately the American reader will have difficulty following the purposes and reasoning of Dr. Kolpakov in this Russian monograph. The form of his experiments is by our standards inadequately described, and nowhere does he clearly state his postulate.

Nevertheless, Dr. Kolpakov has carried out an enormous number of experiments purporting to show the effects of hemorrhagic shock on adrenal cortical function and on constituents of blood. The experimental subjects were animals; adrenalectomy or hypophysectomy with and without pre-treatment with steroids, ACTH or chlorpromazine comprised some of the experimental conditions. From his material Dr. Kolpakov concludes that steroids are essential additions to the recognized methods of treatment of the terminal states of hemorrhagic shock. I am not convinced that his material clearly demonstrates this value. His conclusions appear to be based on speculation rather than to be drawn logically from experimental evidence.

The monograph may be of value to those intensely interested in the experimental aspects of resuscitation. It is of limited usefulness to practicing physicians.

ROBERT T. PATRICK, M.D.

Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation. By DONALD G. MCKAY, M.D., Francis Delafield Professor and Chairman, Department of Pathology, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, New York City. Cloth. \$18.00. Pp. 493, with 204 illustrations, 7 in color. Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row, Publishers, New York and London, 1965.

The author of this book has selected a pathogenic phenomenon adequately described by the title which is commonly encountered in many unrelated disease states. It appears, however, that it is largely a late developing problem. Many etiological factors are quite evidently capable of producing intravascular coagulation. Among those that are of particular interest to anesthesiologists are: cold injury, crush syndrome, endotoxin shock, blood transfusion reactions, poisonings, amniotic fluid embolism, anoxia and cardiac arrest. The book is profusely illustrated with charts and microscopic studies of the tissues involved. An introductory chapter reviewing the blood coagulation mechanism is one of the most succinct of its kind. This chapter alone is worthy of perusal by any physician.

This book is highly specialized. It is particularly of value to the internist, hematologist and pathologist. Although it has very little immediate value in anesthesiologic practice, it does represent a source book for many unusual disease states and can be considered a fine reference volume.

VINCENT J. COLLINS, M.D.

Exposés D'Anesthésiologie a L'Usage des Praticiens et des Etudiants. Second Edition. By P. HUGENARD AND P. JAQUENOUD. Paperback. 28 Frs. Pp. 276, with 19 illustrations. Masson et Cie, Editeurs, Libraires de l'Académie de Médecine, 120, boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris, 1964.

This volume, written in French, covers four main topics. The first section on clinical anesthesia comprises several chapters on problems faced by the anesthesiologist dealing with newborn, geriatric, and alcoholic patients. Anatomical and physiological differences between adult, geriatric, and newborn patients are presented, together with some recommendations for preoperative medication, anesthesia and postanesthetic management. Cardiovascular and respiratory complications of anesthesia are included in this section with special emphasis on cardiac arrest, pulmonary embolism and shock. The authors failed to mention the importance of measurements of the central venous pressure during treatment of shock.