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"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 pretreatment 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. $16.00. 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 Praticians et des Étudiants. Second Edition. By P. HUGUENARD 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.

The second section is devoted to pharmacology of anesthetic agents and other drugs closely related to anesthesia. The chapter on sympathomimetics is particularly interesting.

A short section on physiology includes discussion of adrenocortical hormones in relation to anesthesia and metabolism, renal function, and interesting concepts of the physiopathology of pain.

The last section deals with artificial ventilation, technique and complications of tracheostomy, and prevention of blood loss.

The authors have made an attempt to present a comprehensive dissertation on both the investigative and clinical aspects of anesthesiology; consequently, at times the outline is limited to fundamentals, and it is frequently very dogmatic. This book must be very popular in France, having been revised and reprinted as a second edition since its 1960 predecessor.

ELIO BALDINI, M.D.

Infusionsprobleme in der Chirurgie (Infusion Problems in Surgery). EDITED BY U. F. GRUBER, M.D., AND M. ALLGÖWER, M.D. Paper. DM 7.20 (about $2). Pp. 109, with 14 illustrations. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1965.

This booklet is a word-by-word transcript of a *colloquium* held on June 11, 1964, in Zurich, Switzerland. It is the fifth volume of a series on Anesthesiology and Resuscitation, edited by R. Frey, F. Kern and O. Mayerhofer. The two chairmen and 9 panelists, in two separate sessions, discuss the subjects of Water and Electrolyte Balance, and Shock. It is not clear to whom the panel's remarks were addressed: If to medical students or clinicians not familiar with current, classical or even the most elementary aspects of this subject matter, then the presentations might serve a purpose in giving a birds-eye view of these problems. If addressed to anesthesiologists, surgeons or anyone engaged in the preoperative or postoperative care of the surgical patient, the transcript of these panels is far too sketchy, elementary and at times even primitive. The subject matter is well enough organized and deals with all aspects and complications of fluid and electrolyte therapy, pathogenesis and therapy of shock, transfusion problems, plasma expanders, renal function—some 80 headings in all, many of which are dismissed in less than one-half page. Out of 65 references about 50 are from the United States, British or Canadian literature. One excellent German article (published in a United States journal) is quoted: the work by Thurau *et al.* on the mechanics of Mannitol diuresis and the function of the juxtaglomerular apparatus. It is surprising to see the anesthesiologist on the panel propound the simultaneous use of narcotics and narcotic antagonists in ready-mix combinations which "avoid respiratory depression without concomitant inhibition of the analgesic effect." It is likewise amazing to find that hypodermoclysis is still being used as a method of fluid replacement in "old people and cardiacs." The pathogenesis of shock is dismissed in two pages. There is no mention of the depression of the epinephrine and norepinephrine response by acidosis. Irreversible shock is treated by large doses of steroids, particularly aldosterone. The discussion of the use of ganglionic blocking drugs in shock is very sketchy, as are the paragraphs on hyperbaric oxygenation, hypothermia, respiratory acidosis and assisted respiration, low molecular weight dextran, THAM and intra-arterial blood transfusion. In all, this small volume is more a table of contents albeit well arranged, than a book. It is of little interest to anesthesiologists, but may be of benefit to students in terms of mapping out a large area of reading.

W. H. MANNHEIMER, M.D.

Herz und Kreislauf der Säugetiere (The Heart and Circulation of Mammals). BY DR. MED. VET. JULES GRAUWILER, Institute of Veterinary Physiology, University of Zürich, Switzerland. Cloth. 38 Sw. Fr. (about $9). Pp. 191, with 39 figures and numerous tables. Birkhäuser Verlag. Basel and Stuttgart, Germany, 1965.

This reference book on the comparative physiology and pharmacology of the heart and circulation of mammals presents data obtained from a thorough survey of the literature, supplemented in many places by the original experimental data of the author. In five chapters are discussions on: heart rate; blood pressure in various vessels; electrocardiogram; plasma, cell and blood volumes; and minute and stroke volume. Much of the material is summarized in tables. This well-illustrated, beautifully printed, and well-documented volume would serve as a readily available reference source and be of great interest to anyone engaged in cardiovascular research.

FRANCIS F. FOLDES, M.D.

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