

The book is well edited. The dull paper and clear type make it easy to read. The illustrations are reproductions of drawings, photographs and diagrams pertinent to the subject matter.

While it is not possible in so brief a compass to present an exhaustive history of anesthesia, this book gives an adequate account. The approach in presenting the subject as a branch of medical, scientific, and world history is particularly enlightening. It is recommended for medical libraries and would be especially helpful to, and enjoyed by, students of anesthesiology.

JULIA C. ARROWOOD, M.D.

**Emergency Anaesthesia.** EDITED BY HARRY L. THORNTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.F.A., R.C.S., D.A., AND PETER F. KNIGHT, M.B., B.S., (Lond.), F.F.A., R.C.S., D.A., Consultant Anaesthetists, St. Mary's Hospital, London. Cloth. \$18.75. Pp. 451, with illustrations. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1965.

The editors have successfully aimed this excellently printed and beautifully bound textbook at both the postgraduate anesthesiologist in a well-equipped modern urban hospital and the lone practitioner in some primitive mission hospital, faced with the often testing problems of emergency surgery.

In 20 chapters contributed by 12 physicians (10 anesthesiologists, 1 pathologist and 1 consultant in metabolism) practicing in England, most of the subjects discussed in standard anesthesia textbooks are covered. They range from preoperative assessment and preparation, apparatus, conduction analgesia, anesthesia for various emergency conditions, postanesthetic complications, hypothermia and acute respiratory insufficiency, to cardiac arrest and resuscitation. The subject matter is clearly presented, with adequate use of references to substantiate the text, which is profusely and excellently illustrated. An adequate index is provided. The more complicated apparatus presented is mainly of European manufacture. While complicated apparatus will be unavailable to those less fortunate physicians practicing in primitive surroundings, the reader will find good presentations of simple and more practical methods of anesthetic management. However, this reviewer was unable to find any mention of the administration of drugs by rectum, which method others have occasionally found desirable for specific cases, or in primitive locations. A long chapter on conduction analgesia is expertly presented. However, in discussing spinal analgesia the author speaks of the advantageous use of oxygen by mask or cath-

eter only in situations where low blood pressure and degrees of intercostal paralysis co-exist, rather than recommending the use of oxygen by mask in the presence of any intercostal paralysis.

This comprehensive publication is expensive, but worthy of a place in all medical school and hospital libraries, and should be available to the many physicians who need a good source of reference in order to deal adequately with emergency situations.

HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

**The Application of Neurolept-Analgesia in Anesthetic and Other Practice.** Proceedings of the First British Symposium, Sponsored by Janssen Pharmaceuticals Division of Ortho Pharmaceutical Ltd. EDITED BY N. W. SIFFHARD. Cloth. \$8.50. Pp. 96, with illustrations. Pergamon Press, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Paris, Frankfurt, 1965.

This small book is well printed and arranged for easy reading and reference. It records the Proceedings of a Symposium held at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh in June 1964 for the purpose of surveying critically the substances phenoperidine, droperidol, and fentanyl and their use in the techniques of neuroleptanalgesia and general anesthesia.

There are six major chapters plus a page of closing remarks. Each of the six sections reports a lecture on a specific topic and the ensuing discussion. The subjects covered include the chemistry and pharmacology of droperidol, phenoperidine and fentanyl, and the use of one or all in neurosurgery, in general anesthesia, in operations for the ultrasonic destruction of the labyrinth in Meniere's disease, in obstetric practice and during and after open heart surgery.

This book contains valuable information obtained from considerable experience with these drugs. It is particularly timely since there is a paucity of information on these drugs in the American literature. The discussions which are reported verbatim are an extremely valuable addition to the major presentations, since they raised many practical questions. Many of the commentators added pertinent information from their own use of the drugs. I highly recommend this little volume to anesthesiologists. It should stimulate more investigation of these drugs in this country, and serve as a handy reference book.

RUTH M. ANDERSON, M.D.

**Nitrous Oxide Amalgnesia. A Safe General Anesthesia for Ambulatory Patients.** By J. HAROLD KLOCK, A.B., D.D.S., M.R.S.H., Consultant in Dental and Oral Surgery, St. Francis