

Foreign Texts

Tetanus, Pathogenese, Behandlung, Komplikationen, Prophylaxe, mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Curarebehandlung (Tetanus, pathogenesis, treatment, complications, prophylaxis, with special reference to treatment with curare). By HANS STRINEMANN. Pp. 175, 27 tables, 15 illustrations. Cloth. Price: Fr/DM 27. Verlag Hans Huber, Bern und Stuttgart, 1966.

This monograph summarizes the management of tetanus at the University Hospital in Bern from 1918 to 1965. During this time 192 patients were seen, the last 92 after the introduction of curare as the mode of treatment in 1956.

The text is didactic and deals with all aspects of the disease, including vaccination prophylaxis. In each chapter the world literature is reviewed and experimental and clinical work reported. The tables, illustrations and index are also helpful.

The use of curare coupled with artificial ventilation in the treatment of tetanus assumes a significant portion of the discussion. The clinical aspects of this management are stressed. The dangers associated with hyperventilation are dealt with in detail. The most common and serious complication encountered in this series was infection of the respiratory system, the severity of which seemed to be lessened by the prophylactic administration of antibiotics. The importance of good nursing care and physiotherapy in obtaining good results was stressed.

In spite of all the advances in treatment, the authors were unable to find evidence that the prognosis of the patient who has tetanus had altered significantly since the turn of the century. Their depressing conclusion was that the mortality is still 30 to 50 per cent.

The presentation of this problem is concise, with sufficient detail to make this small volume a valuable addition to the armamentarium of the clinician faced with the problem of treating tetanus. It is to be recommended.

BRUNO J. URBAN, M.D.

Narkose. Eine Einführung. (An introduction to general anesthesia). By DR. LUDWIG VON STOCER; Geleitwort von Prof. Dr. K. Kremer-Ehnen. Pp. 243, with illustrations and tables. Price: DM 9. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 1967.

An Introduction to General Anesthesia is intended for medical students and for physicians and surgeons who must work in close collaboration with the anesthesiologist. The material is organized in well-defined chapters covering pre- and postoperative routine. There are additional chapters on anesthetic agents, including the muscle relaxants; artificial ventilation; infusion therapy; and cardiac resuscitation. The sections on tetanus poisoning and pulmonary edema are concise and direct. The style is clear and the illustrations greatly add to the clarity of the presentation.

This volume is obviously directed to the continental anesthesiologist; this is reflected in the recommended use of tranquilizers for premedication and the importance given propanidid and the neuroleptanalgesics. The discussions of intravenous fluid replacement and electrolyte therapy are complete and useful. The discussion of inhalation anesthetics could have been extended to include the concept of MAC, which might be especially useful for beginners. More detailed information about intubation, especially as it relates to the kinds of endotracheal tubes available, would be useful. This same criticism might be applied to the discussion of non-breathing systems for children, which appears somewhat incomplete. The statement in the text on the use of barbiturates in hepatic disease and myocardial insufficiency may be questioned.

Except for these minor objections, which may well reflect the reviewer's prejudice, this volume, available for the German-speaking student, is highly recommended as an instructor's text and as a short survey of the field.

BRUNO J. URBAN, M.D.

Praktische Lokalanästhesie. Ein Kompendium (A compendium of local anesthesia). By HANS GEORG AUERBERGER. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 1967.

This compendium is written for the practicing physician. Therefore, theoretical considerations are largely omitted, although the literature index will serve as a guide for further studies. The anesthetic methods described have proven their value over the years and are in common use. In general, only one approach is mentioned for each procedure. Difficult and rarely-employed types of anesthesia are not discussed. The description is clear. Simple drawings aid in understanding. The recommended drugs and the maximal total doses are safe; however, no mg./kg. dosages are given. (On page 3 the maximal total dose of procaine with adrenaline is listed as 100 mg, probably a printing error.) Technically, the usefulness of a connected syringe for the superclavicular plexus block is questionable, as is the stated negative opinion about the paracervical block. Although endotracheal anesthesia is the method of choice for elective tracheostomy, it should also be stated that emergency tracheostomy under local anesthesia should always be performed over an endotracheal tube. In summary, this booklet is well written, and will serve for quick reference and as a useful supplement to the more detailed textbooks.

BRUNO J. URBAN, M.D.

Organ Transplantation. By FELIX (HERAUSGEBER) LARGIATER, DR. MED. Pp. 220. Price: DM 49. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 1966.

Organ transplantation has become a reality; its special problems will be faced by more and more