and procedure, simultaneously being certain that the patient understands? It seems most tenable to accept the definition that informed consent is a goal (not a definite endpoint) toward which the physician strives.

The important relationship of the law to the scientific and ethical policies of human experimentation is discussed. Since laws are the response of governing bodies to the pressures and demands of society, and society changes as it is led by the inventiveness and daring of advanced thinkers, a curious conflict arises. There are few, if any, laws to safeguard the investigator who attempts new studies and the doctrine that "the physician experiments at his peril" is established. Fortunately indeed is society that a few have dared to use the first vaccine, the first blood transfusion, the heart-lung machine for the first time, and to transplant an organ.

Confronted by this veritable maze of seeming conflict between scientific method and humanitarian approach, and faced with the obvious problem of informed consent and a multitude of legal opinions, what can we expect when human experimentation is considered? Since science has become more and more significant in the modern world, it is more and more important that it be a trusted activity. In society today the rights of the individual are more important than ever. And thus, the author suggests a solution, also expressed by others, that far more important than the scientific is the moral history of mankind—this is our best yardstick for human experimentation. One can never accept the pragmatic approach that the ends justify the method (risks).

The practical problems of transplantation are considered and many are the ethical questions in their solution. How does one obtain permission to remove a healthy organ from a healthy person; when is a person dead (enough) to remove an organ for use in another person; how much can the rights of the dying be curtailed to help the rights of the living? Obviously many of these and allied questions cannot be answered to the mutual agreement of all, but their consideration is mandatory.

To those readers who cannot accept that all problems cannot be easily solved, there is a gentle reminder in the quotation by Rilke: "That we must seek to do the difficult is a certainty that shall never leave us."

This book is a unique and valuable contribution. It culminates an interest that Dr. Beecher has had for many years in a relatively abstract and generally-avoided subject. His efforts in making this information available will be appreciated by and gratifying to all concerned with health care.

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Internists, surgeons, psychiatrists and anesthesiologists will warmly welcome a work on general neurology that deals clearly and systematically with the basic principles of clinical neurophysiology and neuropharmacology related to their fields. Whether they will extend such a welcome to the present volume is somewhat problematic. The author certainly writes lucidly and judiciously about his chosen topics—the individual neuron, central and visceral neuronal communication processes, the electrical activity of the brain, the neurologic basis of surgical anesthesia, the pharmacodynamics of central communication processes, neuromuscular communication processes, cerebral circulation and metabolism, and the cerebrospinal fluid. This group of subjects has great appeal to anesthesiologists, whose problems and methods Dr. Wyke discusses extensively and with much understanding. Unfortunately, these valuable features are marred by a decisive defect: hardly any reference is made to work later than 1953. The usefulness of the ample bibliography is further impaired by the absence of references to individual entries, as experienced publishers of scholarly works, Elsevier ought to know better.

To those who seek a grounding in the state of anesthesiological neuropharmacology and neurophysiology in the 1950's and the early 60's, this volume will be a valuable guide, but those who want a more up-to-date account will have to turn elsewhere. Unfortunately, there is nowhere else to turn.

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Understanding the anesthetic state and the mechanisms that lead to it is a formidable task. Description of the manner in which anesthetics affect centrally mediated functions, as well as the meaning of a given effect, is not only extremely difficult with our present knowledge, but a desperate race is due against numerous and contradictory reports coming from various disciplines. Against this background, Dr. Jenkins' book brings to the anesthesiologist a comprehensive study of "General Anesthesia and the Central Nervous System." He has organized the book in five self-contained parts, dedicated, respectively, to anatomy and physiology of the CNS, effects of anesthetics on