

and Bruce L. Douglas, published in 1964 by the American Dental Association.

The text thoroughly covers various aspects of hospital dentistry, such as outpatient and inpatient services, the operating room, and general anesthesia.

This revised edition is recommended as a reference text for undergraduate dental students, dentists, and physicians who have an interest in hospital dentistry.

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Birth and Brain Damage. By CYRIL B. COURVILLE. Pasadena, California 91103, Margaret Farnsworth Courville, 1971. Pp. 408.

This is an important book, completed by the author shortly before his death in 1968 and since published by his widow in elegant form. It is the epitome of the case history method of analysis of pathogenesis of cerebral problems in the perinatal period. Courville is at times anecdotal, at times stubbornly opinionated, and he touches base frequently with the other also well deserving pioneers of a period that is coming to an end: Schwartz, Towbin, Benda, Becker, and others.

Courville was also contemporary with and makes reference to Windle and his co-workers, especially with regard to experiments on "anoxia" and failure of vascular perfusion. On the other hand, it is clear that Courville failed to recognize the important distinction between conclusions based on assumptions and descriptive data and inferences drawn from experiments developed to answer specific questions.

The case descriptive method is limited by several considerations: a) lesions are isolated in time, giving a nonsystematic view of the progression of the changes described; b) underlying mechanisms are often empirically derived, confirmed by opinion, and are in reality unwarranted assumptions; and c) the clinical situation generally limits the variations possible in conditions which might give rise to a clearer picture.

In his connection, the style of work of Windle, Myers, Becker, and others should in time permit a pathogenetic scheme of classification of lesions. The sweeping use of "anoxia" to explain such a wide variety of lesions (chapter II, part II; chapter III; chapter IV, in part) and the use of gross descriptive terms, e.g., "acute paranasal cerebral softening," should convey to the experimentally inclined neuropathologist or neonatologist that all is not well with the effort to date to understand these complex problems.

But these are in summary complaints about the state of the subject at the time of writing, not about Professor Courville, who made numerous

important contributions to an understanding of these problems. His efforts toward laminar cortical necrosis, its definition as an express entity or signal lesion, would probably gain his admission to the halls of the recognized. This book, which must represent the high-water mark of the classical method, will guarantee Professor Courville's place in the history of perinatology, and we may be thankful that he was blessed by Providence to the degree that he brought it to completion in his own style and out of his enormous experience—a whole professional career devoted to a subject of enormous importance. All students of the subject would profit by a close reading whether they agree with the author or not. Combining the book with Schwartz's *Birth Injuries of the Newborn*, the reader would have reference to the pooled wisdom of the two giants of their age.

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From time to time books are received which may have general interest but do not warrant review. Where indicated the editor may make short comments. The following are representative of such volumes.

Drugs 1960-1970. EDITED BY GRAEME S. AVERY. Seaforth, NSW Australia, Australasian Drug Information Services Pty. Ltd. Distributed in U. S. A. by Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 1969. Pp. 280. \$8.75.

A limited reference on drugs and disease—of general interest.

Principles and Practice of Intravenous Therapy. By ADA LAWRENCE PLUMER. Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1970. Pp. 262. Cloth \$9.00; paperback \$3.50.

A manual for nurse or technician. Really not sophisticated enough for the medical student or house officer.

Respiration and Circulation. EDITED BY PHILIP L. ALTMAN AND DOROTHY S. DITTMER. Bethesda, Maryland, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, 1971. Pp. 930. \$30.00.

This standard reference of tables, graphs, diagrams, charts, and monographs verified by 400 authorities in biology and medicine has been revised and updated for the researcher and those interested in specific data on biologic organisms, including man.