

**Anesthesiology, A Manual of Concept and Management.** By CHARLES W. QUIMBY, JR. New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1972. Pp. 352, \$7.95.

Here is a new publication aimed at the beginner—student, intern, or resident. This modestly priced paperbacked text is based on the concept that the neophyte will receive adequate technical instruction and supervision in his everyday operating room work, and concentrates on the more theoretical, yet basic, aspects of anesthesiology. The reader asking "how?" will receive little information. If he asks "why?" he will be rewarded.

Particular emphasis is placed on preanesthetic evaluation and preparation, as well as on post-operative care and complications. The anesthetic record receives deserved attention. Throughout there is evidence of the author's background as a lawyer as well as a physician. Words of caution appear frequently and are well worth rereading throughout the course of instruction.

In the sections on the gas machine, tissue perfusion, and the uptake and distribution of anesthetic agents, the author uses to great advantage a series of simple but authoritative drawings and charts from classic sources, greatly facilitating review of these subjects.

The bibliographies have been selected with care, so that direct access to more detailed information is facilitated. This creates, of course, the opportunity for progression in learning, but necessitates utilization of a library. Is this a disadvantage?

Credit must go to Dr. Quimby's collaborators, Drs. Richard B. Clark and Walter S. Guinee, for their contribution of chapters on obstetric and pediatric anesthesia.

**Introduction to Anesthesia. The Principles of Safe Practice.** Fourth edition. By ROBERT D. DRIPPS, JAMES E. ECKENHOFF AND LEROY D. VANDAM. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Company, 1972. Pp. 456. \$11.00.

This book was spawned in the days when there were no satisfactory texts and the faculty prepared teaching notes for the students at the University of Pennsylvania. Although the authors have long since separated, this has not prevented them from bringing out this extensively revised and up-dated fourth edition.

The first edition appeared in 1957. It and its subsequent editions have been received with such enthusiasm and approval by faculty and students that they may be considered standards for comparison. Certainly the authors have had ample opportunity for evaluation of criticism from numerous educators.

As in past editions, efforts are directed toward the description of techniques, as well as a consideration of the more theoretical facets of anesthesiology. More highly specialized subjects such as uncommon regional blocks, hypothermia, deliberate hypotension, and other subjects beyond the scope of the beginning resident are omitted.

Some may regard this as an inadequacy, but one can hardly find fault with the basic principles and procedures described.

The bibliographies are simply lists of supplementary readings, with little or no direct reference to sentences or names in the text. Some may complain that the references are too scanty; few can quarrel with the selection. The illustrations, too, are not numerous but have been selected with care.

For those educators who, for many years, have looked to Dripps, Eckenhoff and Vandam for assistance, this new edition will be welcomed.

**A Practice of Anaesthesia.** Third edition. By W. D. WYLIE AND H. C. CHURCHILL-DAVIDSON. Chicago, Year Book Publishers, Inc., 1972. Pp. 1549. \$44.75.

One of the more pressing literary needs of the anesthesiologist has been that of an encyclopedic sourcebook. Although excellent texts on anatomy, pathology, physiology, and pharmacology had been available, few were tailored to the requirements of the anesthesiologist, especially the resident in later stages of training or the post-residency specialist preparing for examinations and lacking access to a large library.

To provide a compendium of this magnitude is a formidable task indeed. In 1959, Wylie and Churchill-Davidson embarked on this effort with the first edition of *A Practice of Anesthesia*. A second edition appeared in 1965; now we have the third. The efforts of the authors and their associates have been successful.

As suggested above, the objective of the authors has been a correlation of the basic sciences with the practice of anesthesiology. The perfectionist may find this effort somewhat disappointing, for detailed information on every subject is not presented. This task is virtually impossible. However, the reader is presented with authoritative statements on a fantastic number of subjects, and due consideration is given to all sides of more controversial subjects. Sometimes the total packet of information is scattered in several chapters, so the reader must be prepared to use the index carefully.

A very real value of this book lies in its bibliographies. While some American readers may be a little confounded by an emphasis on British sources, this should only serve as a reminder of the substantial contributions of our overseas colleagues. The same is true of the emphasis on British equipment—certainly not on adverse criticism.

Without a doubt, this is the best single volume on anesthesiology available today.

#### WHICH BOOK SHALL I RECOMMEND?

*Some teachers advise their students to purchase textbooks. Others discourage this, relying on utilization of libraries, either departmental or institutional. It must be expected that teaching, at*