

## The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

### Health Service Prospects (An International Survey).

By I. DOUGLAS-WILSON AND G. MCLACHLAN.  
Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1973. Pages:  
346. Price: \$15.00.

For anyone voluntarily or involuntarily interested in the complex and colossal socio-political-economic issues of improvement of our system (or non-system) of health care, this book by two well-informed Englishmen is an excellent compendium of pertinent information. McLachlan is Secretary of the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust and thus at the center of health-care planning for the non-metropolitan population of Great Britain. He is also a Council Member of the American Hospitals Research and Educational Trust. Douglas-Wilson is the Editor of the *Lancet*, an illustrious medical journal which has a long tradition of broad concern in the multifarious problems of clinical and administrative medicine, including those of the health service. To assist them in their presentation, they have enlisted many prominent authorities from countries with well-established national health services and the problems inherent in these systems.

The enormity of the task of organizing the medical services of a country is discussed by contributors from the United Kingdom, the European Economic Community, France, the German Federal Republic, Sweden, Ghana, Cuba, India, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, and the United States. The editors have been able to secure a reasonably consistent presentation of the material. For example, each contributor outlines the history and nature of the country and its people and presents demographic statistics before describing the systems of health-care delivery, medical research support, professional and public education, including present deficiencies and plans for the future. The contributors have been able to avoid the stodginess of a rigidly prescribed pattern and appear to be objective and frank in presenting the difficulties, failures and successes in their respective countries. Pride in national achievement is properly in evidence.

As stressed by D. Venediktov, Deputy Minister of Health in the USSR, each country should have the opportunity to benefit from other countries' attempts to solve the myriad practical problems of providing a nationwide health service. This book offers an excellent vicarious source for such exchanges. It has obviously been carefully edited and succeeds in conveying the individual flavor of the differing philosophies without a surfeit of statistics.

Concise and clear and pleasant to read, the book is sure to be of especial interest to anesthesiologists. They, together with radiologists and pathologists, have long been a center of controversy in designs for the delivery of and payment for medical care. It is clear that unless we understand the prevailing social pressures and the organizations that

can be devised to contain them, we will be helpless to influence their evolution. Influence presupposes information.

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Is it Moral to Modify Man? By C. A. FRAZIER.  
Springfield, IL, Charles C Thomas, 1973. Pages:  
332. Price: \$10.95.

There is no older question in medicine. Everything a physician does or tries to do is intended to modify Man. Every hospital is a center for the modification of Man, every anesthesiologist is an expert in the art. It is apparently not the intent of this collection of essays to provide an answer to its title, but rather by indirection to stimulate the reader to think out his or her own response. Nor does the editor provide a set of principles to guide the contemporary physician through the welter of ethical challenges that is his daily lot. The editor presents the reflections of 17 concerned citizens, about half of them physicians, groping in the gloom or, in a few cases, proclaiming the good news of a solution from the viewpoint of the surgeon, the psychiatrist, the theologian, the sociologist, the psychologist.

The modifications on anyone's list are legion ranging through the alphabet of implantations and meterings and mutilations and transplantations that preoccupy institutions of higher medical care, but the editor selects only a handful for discussion and does not give his reasons. Understandably, there is emphasis on the issues of heart, kidney, and lung transplantations; perhaps disproportionately, a great deal on that modification to end all modifications, suicide.

What one misses most in this book is a historical perspective and a touch of humor. Transplantation has been with us a long time. The first blood transfusion between humans is said to have been given by a London obstetrician, James Blundell, in 1818, to a man who was dying of cancer of the stomach. And the attempts at transplantation of skin by Tagliacozzi (1554-1599) were lampooned by Samuel Butler in *Hudibras*:

So learned Taliocotius from  
The brawny part of Porter's bum  
Cut supplemental Noses which  
Would last as long as Parent Breech  
But when the last Date of Nock was out,  
Off dropt the Sympathetick Snout

There is a religious undertone to several of these essays which is proper to the subject, but does one have to be so uniformly solemn in discourse?

Incontestably, these are perceptive discussions of the moral quandaries evoked by population control, sterilization, drug abuse, genetic manipulation, euthanasia, and sports, and they surely deserve every anesthesiologist's attention. To those who enjoy being jolted out of their set views, this collection of disparate yet remarkably challenging essays will bring new understanding of troubled patients and also new understanding of the people who write about them. In no little measure these are 17 involuntary self-revelations, and it was indeed a pleasure to listen to them by the fireside.

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**Electronic Analog Measurements and Transducers (Module 1, Module 2).** BY H. V. MALMSTADT, C. G. ENKE, AND S. R. CROUCH. Menlo Park, CA, W. A. Benjamin, Inc., 1973. Pages: Module 1, 203; Module 2, 355. Price: \$3.95 ea.

These books are part of a series of four intended to fit into a university-level course in electronics. They present clearly and systematically basic information on electronics and instrumentation systems, as well as problems for the student to solve. The problems can be run on laboratory equipment, but also offered is an elaborate Health/Malmstadt-Enke laboratory station.

The present two texts review succinctly, with good documentation and with excellent illustrations, the basic laws of physics concerning electricity and electromagnetic theory. The basic building blocks are accompanied by problems for

the reader so that he may evaluate his progress and understanding as he works through these volumes.

*Electronic Analog Measurements and Transducers (Module 1)* develops the background for basic electrical and electromagnetic theory, and introduces the reader to ways of transducing physical quantities and manipulating electrical signals so that measurements may be carried out.

*Control of Electrical Quantities in Instrumentation (Module 2)* instructs the reader in the area of instrumentation, starting with simple resistive devices for measurement and control which include resistors, resistive transducers, measurement of resistance, and measurement of network analysis. It then goes into capacitive and inductive control devices which include the integration, differentiation and logarithmic convertors. The text is up-to-date in that it goes into some of the now-accepted built-in features in monitoring equipment such as electronic switching, solid-state switching, and logic elements. In the appendix details on the fabrication of solid-state devices such as transistors are described.

Those interested in research who have a thorough working knowledge of these two volumes will be in a position to interpret manuals published by various companies manufacturing solid-state components and will be able to attempt to design some of their own laboratory equipment to meet data-reduction needs. They would also be in a position to understand many types of electronic laboratory equipment and appreciate the many possible sources of errors.

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## Books Received

**Planning of Surgical Centres.** Second edition. BY ERVIN PUTSEP. London, Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd., 1973. Pp. 250, illus. \$21.95.

**Best & Taylor's Physiological Basis of Medical Practice.** Ninth edition. EDITED BY JOHN R. BROBECK. Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins, 1973. Pp. 1409, illus. \$22.00.

**Medical Examination Review Book. Vol. 12.** Fourth edition. BY ROBERT C. BROWN. Flushing, N.Y., Medical Examination Publishing Co., Inc., 1973. Pp. 214. \$7.50.

**Acupuncture: An International Bibliography.** BY BILLY K. S. TAM AND MIRIAM S. L. TAM. Metuchen, N.J., 1973. Pp. 137. \$5.00.

**The Brompton Hospital Guide To Chest Physiotherapy.** Second edition. BY D. V. GASKELL AND B. A. WEBBER. Philadelphia, F. A. Davis, 1973. Pp. 80. \$5.25.

**Illustrated Preoperative and Postoperative Care.** Second edition. BY PHILIP THOREK. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott, 1973. Pp. 147. \$8.75.

**Anesthesia and Uncommon Diseases.** BY J. KATZ AND L. B. KADIS. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1973. Pp. 543. \$21.00.

**Anesthesiology Progress since 1940.** BY E. M. PAPPER, S. H. NGAI, AND L. C. MARK. Coral Gables, FL, University of Miami Press, 1973. Pp. 192. \$7.95.

**Introduction to Acupuncture Anesthesia.** BY W. C. LOWE. Flushing, NY, Medical Examination Publishing Co., Inc., 1973. Pp. 101. \$5.00.

**Butyrophenones in Psychiatry** BY A. DIMASCIO AND R. I. SHADER. New York, Raven Press, 1972. Pp. 128. \$9.75.

**Antiepileptic Drugs.** BY D. M. WOODBURY, J. K. PENRY, AND R. P. SCHMIDT. New York, Raven Press, 1972. Pp. 536. \$19.75.

**The Benzodiazepines.** BY S. GARATTINI, E. MUSINI AND L. O. RANDALL. New York, Raven Press, 1973. Pp. 685. \$35.00.

**Marihuana—Deceptive Weed.** BY G. G. NAHAS. New York, Raven Press, 1973. Pp. 334. \$12.50.