

## THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D., *Editor*

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Dr. Huberta M. Livingstone has kindly consented to act as Editor of this Section. She will be supported by a panel of some twenty reviewers well versed in the disciplines of anesthesiology. Books covering topics dealing directly with anesthesiology will be reviewed. In addition, reviews of books that may not pertain directly to the specialty but have a bearing within the broad interests of anesthesiologists will be published.

RALPH M. TOVELL, M.D., *Editor*

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**Ciba Foundation Symposium on The Kidney.** Arranged jointly with the Renal Association. Editor for the Renal Association: A. A. G. LEWIS, B.Sc., M.D., M.R.C.P., Editor for the Ciba Foundation: G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., Assisted by JOAN ETHERINGTON. Cloth \$6.75. Pp. 333, with 127 illustrations. Little, Brown & Company, 34 Beacon St., Boston 6; J. & A. Churchill, Ltd., 104 Gloucester Pl., Portman Sq., London, W. 1, England, 1954.

This volume contains a verbatim account of the proceedings at an international symposium on the kidney held in London, July 7 to 10, 1953, which was arranged jointly by the Ciba Foundation and the Renal Association. Eight countries were represented by the 35 eminent participants who were chosen for this undertaking. The book is divided into the following five topics: structural and functional relationships in the kidney, tubular functions other than the regulation of acid-base balance, renal share in the regulation of acid-base balance, general problems of electrolyte excretion, and renal share in volume control of body fluid. The 22 papers contained in this symposium are each followed by adequate references, as well as by full and informal discussions of each formal presentation. A mass of valuable information is presented, including such factors as the physiological and pathological aspects of the kidney both in clinical practice and in experimental investigations on animals. The accumulated knowledge of current research on the kidney and its many ramifications is presented in an excellent format. This book should prove a valuable reference text, particularly to those interested in investigative studies pertaining to the kidney. Anesthesiologists should find it useful in clarifying the present thinking regarding kidney function, and also in securing a better understanding of the complex problems involved in acute renal failure, renal excretion in the presence of inadequate circulation, anuria, and other processes of vital concern to the practitioners in our specialty.

H. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

**Anesthesia in Ophthalmology.** BY WALTER S. ATKINSON, M.D. \$3.25. Pp. 90, with 44 illustrations. Charles C Thomas, Publishers, 301-327 E. Lawrence Ave., Springfield, Ill., 1955.

In order to be successful, anesthesia for ophthalmological procedures must meet a large number of unique requirements. The outcome of the operation often may depend upon satisfactory anesthetic management. Since most texts on anesthesiology cover this field only in generalities, there has been a real need for more detailed descriptions of techniques involved. This book has been written with that purpose in mind.

Following a discussion of premedication and drugs which may be recommended for local anesthesia, each type of block which may be utilized is discussed separately. These are described concisely and illustrated well. The indications, the limitations and the complications are presented thoroughly. It is evident that the author draws not only on his familiarity with the literature but also from a broad personal experience.

This monograph is intended primarily for the ophthalmologist and therefore devotes the majority of its attention to the local and regional techniques which may be employed.

General anesthesia is covered in the last 8 pages and is presented in such a manner as to familiarize the ophthalmologist with the possibilities presented by general anesthesia in order that he may consult more intelligently with the anesthesiologist. Perhaps the greatest merit of this section is that it does not attempt to provide specific indications and contraindications for various general anesthetic agents and techniques but rather leaves these decisions to the anesthesiologist.

This monograph on local and regional procedures is recommended reading not only for ophthalmologists but also for anesthesiologists who thereby may have a better understanding of the possibilities presented by these techniques with or without the addition of general anesthesia.

THOMAS K. LAMMERT, M.D.

**Anesthesia in General Practice.** By STUART C. CULLEN, M.D. Fourth Edition. \$5. Pp. 312, with 37 illustrations. Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 E. Illinois St., Chicago 11, 1954.

This is the fourth edition of a text which was first published in 1946. Originally designed as a teaching manual for medical students, this book is aimed also at the part-time anesthetist and others who may be called upon to care for respiratory emergencies, hypoxia, and shock. As such, little stress is placed on the technical aspects of anesthesiology "because it is felt that a more satisfactory solution of anesthesiologic problems can be obtained by the reader if the emphasis is placed on establishing a basis for a rational approach to these problems" (Preface, page 12). This purpose is admirably fulfilled in clear and concise language. Few words are wasted and some of the most important points are covered by a single sentence. The reader is repeatedly referred to other sources of information for technical details. The bibliography is small (except on muscle relaxants) but well chosen.

There are those who might disagree with the arrangement and sequence of subject matter. For example, muscle relaxants and barbiturates are discussed under inhalation agents, and the signs of anesthesia are presented near the end of the book. On the other hand, one might find it difficult to suggest a better arrangement. Likewise some may object to concepts set forth by Dr. Cullen, but controversial points are few and always handled from the viewpoint of sound physiology rather than by dogmatic statements.

The physical characteristics of the book are excellent. The type is large and the illustrations are quite clear and located very appropriately in relationship to the text. An unusual feature is the use of cartoons which provide excellent illustrations of the management of reactions to local anesthetic drugs.

This fourth edition contains a good discussion of ventilation and touches briefly on controlled hypotension and hypothermia. In addition, the section on muscle relaxants has been expanded. Notable by its absence is a discussion of "cardiac arrest" and its management, yet the tenor of the entire book is that of emphasis upon principles which will tend to prevent this catastrophe.

This small volume fulfills the objectives of the author in providing an excellent source of information on the basic practice of anesthesia and, as such, is highly recommended for medical students or physicians who are attracted to anesthesia. It is not a "cook-book" whose reading might encourage a general practitioner to become a dangerous anesthetist.

DAVID A. DAVIS, M.D.

**The Development of Medical Bibliography.** By ESTELLE BRODMAN, Assistant Librarian for Reference Services, Armed Forces Medical Library, Washington, D. C. Medical Library Association, publication No. 1. Cloth \$5. Pp. 226, with 11 illustrations. Archives Curator, Medical & Chirurgical Faculty of State of Maryland, Baltimore 1, 1954.

This is an interesting little book written by the Assistant Librarian for Reference Services of the Armed Forces Medical Library. Her intention is to present a chrono-