

tremely dangerous and should not be used. Arfonad® is the agent most frequently employed because of its relative controllability.

The fourth section is mainly concerned with muscle relaxants. Several new drugs are discussed. It is agreed that the ideal muscle relaxant has not been found. The mode of action of these agents is considered by several authors, some of whom illustrate the antagonism that exists between the two major groups, the curare-like compounds and the depolarizing compounds. Other authors discuss the various types of operations in which muscle relaxants may be of use. There are also a number of papers on the teaching of anesthesiology which approach the subject from different angles, thus make a contribution to the whole without seeming to overlap. Papers on miscellaneous subjects complete this volume.

One may be grateful to the editors for grouping topics so that a connecting theme runs through several successive papers, thus giving cohesion to the whole. The strategic placement of panel discussions on physiology, hypothermia and hypotension at the end of their respective sections helps to provide a summary of impressions gained previously. It is easy to agree with Dr. Ernest Kern of France, however, that it was unfortunate that no objector to the use of hypotensive methods was included in the panel on hypotension to present the views of those who cannot subscribe to opinion that hypotension is a relatively safe technique in the hands of those who know how to use it. There is a widespread belief in this country that this technique is to be used only when absolutely necessary in the carefully selected patient. This view is not represented in this publication.

It was clearly impossible to change all trade names to U.S.P. designations and some of the compounds discussed are unknown to North Americans. For this reason there occasionally may be confusion in the minds of some readers as to the type of drug being referred to or its place in the family of, for example, muscle relaxants. Difficulties such as these however, should not blind one to the value of the material appearing in this volume, to both clinical anesthesiologists and research scientists.

RANALD J. M. STEVEN, M.B.

Pratique de L'Hibernothérapie en Chirurgie et en Médecine. PAR H. LABORIT AND P. HUGUENARD. Pp. 256. Masson & Cie, 120 boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris, 6^e, 1954.

This book, written in French, is probably of limited interest to American readers. It is a collection of papers presented by a group of some 24 French clinicians, edited by Laborit and Huguenard. The presentation is strikingly persuasive and contains many interesting and challenging ideas. It is in no sense statistically sound, since the data provided is insufficient to document statements made. The cases described have obviously been selected for the authors' purposes and are presented more or less impressionistically, without comparative information as to the results obtained by other methods. One of the main concepts presented is the belief that the normal reaction of man to stress, in an effort to maintain homeostasis, is not necessarily beneficial to the individual, since it often represents an over-reaction. The authors' thesis therefore is that man must be protected in real stress against such over-reaction, and, therefore, they strongly urge the blocking of the autonomies, and provision of a hibernation state. What the book lacks in fact and documentation is somewhat offset by the challenging ideas of Messieurs Laborit and Huguenard.

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J.A.M.A. Clinical Abstracts of Diagnosis and Treatment. Edited by NOAH D. FABRICANT, M.D. Published with approval of Board of Trustees, American Medical Association. Cloth \$5.50. Pp. 646. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York, and 99 Great Russell Street, London, W.C. 1, 1956.

This volume contains a selection of abstracts from the "Medical Literature Abstracts" section of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* from the fields of diagnosis