

many others. There is one chapter of 12 pages describing anesthetic techniques. It is entitled "Painless Childbirth" and begins with an historical note on Sir James Simpson and his use of chloroform and continues with a description of the era of "twilight sleep." There are several paragraphs on specific analgesics and regional methods including, barbiturates, Demerol, Trilene, spinal, continuous caudal and local anesthesia. Nitrous oxide and ether are mentioned briefly in a discussion of the three phases of pain in childbirth. There is a sensible discussion of "natural childbirth." There is no mention of cyclopropane and no reference to anesthesia for cesarean section. The material in this relatively small chapter relating to anesthetics is accurate and well presented and would be most helpful to an expectant mother. Its usefulness to an anesthesiologist would be only as a guidebook to which he could refer lay persons who are interested in pain relief during the phases of childbirth.

RUTH M. ANDERSON, M.D.

Perinatal Loss in Modern Obstetrics. By ROBERT E. L. NESBITT, JR., M.D., with a foreword by NICHOLAS J. EASTMAN, M.D. Cloth \$12.50. Pp. 450, with 112 illustrations. F. A. Davis Company, 1914 Cherry Street, Philadelphia 3, 1957.

In this book Dr. Nesbitt, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Albany Medical College, has summarized and integrated the many factors concerned in deaths in the perinatal period. Among the subjects presented for evaluation are abortion, prematurity, anoxia, birth injuries, malformations, infections, multiple and ectopic gestation, and analgesia and anesthesia. Much of the material discussed and many of the excellent illustrations were obtained from the Pathological Laboratory of the Department of Obstetrics of Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Nesbitt is a former director of that laboratory.

The chapter on anesthesia and analgesia presents a review of some of the anesthetic problems encountered in the perinatal period. The author makes no attempt to evaluate or recommend any particular anesthetic techniques or agents, but pleads for more competent anesthetists and more careful consideration of the many variable factors encountered in the perinatal period. Therefore, for the anesthesiologists, this book would seem valuable only as a reference for those particularly interested in obstetrical anesthesia.

The format of the book is excellent. The binding, however, is of poor quality.

DAVID A. DAVIS, M.D.

Human Blood Groups and Inheritance. Second Edition. By SYLVIA D. LAWLER, M.D. (ENG.), and L. J. LAWLER, B.Sc. (ENG.), with a foreword by R. R. RACE, Ph.D., M.R.C.S., F.R.S. (ENG.). Paper \$1.50. Pp. 103, with 10 illustrations. Harvard University Press, 79 Garden Street, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts—(Printed in Great Britain), 1957.

Although this authoritative little book has its principal emphasis on the biological and genetic relationships which determine human blood groups, it presents in a surprisingly comprehensive and interesting manner the rationale of modern methods of blood grouping.

A concise historical chapter brings the reader from ancient Greece to the early 1950's and is followed by a brief review of modern techniques of blood grouping. Most of the book deals with the major blood group systems, and important factual statements are emphasized by simple examples. Particularly impressing is the clarity of the three paragraphs which explain the "indirect Coombs test." An essential minimum of mathematical and statistical data is presented, chiefly to show the genetic mechanisms of inheritance of blood groups. A short account of the most recent blood group systems, of less clinical significance than the major systems, occupies 10 pages, and is followed by a chapter describing the British National Blood Transfusion System.

A final chapter, entitled "Human Blood Groups and Biology," goes beyond the practical clinical considerations of the dangers of incompatible blood transfusions, and of

hemolytic disease of the newborn owing to the presence of antibodies of the Rhesus system, to describe other applications of studies of blood group systems to human welfare. Some of these have immediate and practical importance, such as in the identification of blood stains or in cases of controversial paternity. More remote applications influence the sciences of anthropology, ethnology, and human genetics.

This book is recommended for the anesthesiologists, particularly those who do not assume the responsibilities of a blood bank. A better insight into the reasons for the occurrence of incompatible blood transfusion reactions will be gained with the first reading, and, for a book of its size, its place in his library will serve remarkably well as a simple reference. The physician who runs his own blood bank will find biological and genetic considerations of interest, but will require a more detailed reference, such as "Technical Methods and Procedures of the American Association of Blood Banks."

JOHN R. LINCOLN, M.D.

Intravenous Anesthesia in Dentistry. By S. L. DRUMMOND-JACKSON. Cloth \$4.50. Pp. 152. Staples Press, Ltd., Mandeville Place, London W 1, 1952. (John de Graff, Inc., 31 E. Tenth St., New York 3.)

This textbook is primarily of interest to the dental profession but may also be used with benefit by the physician anesthesiologist. It is based upon the experience gained by the author during the administration of anesthesia for 20,000 office dental procedures.

The author's main intention is to draw to the attention of the dental and medical professions a technique of balanced anesthesia (thiopental and nitrous oxide) which he feels promotes safety, comfort, and rapid convalescence of the office dental patient, and also is convenient for the dental surgeon. A secondary purpose is to stress the role which he feels dentists should play in the administration of office anesthesia.

The subject matter of this volume consists of a detailed description of light, balanced office dental anesthesia conducted chiefly with intravenous thiopental sodium and occasionally supplemented with nitrous oxide inhalation anesthesia. Various aspects of this subject are considered, such as advantages and disadvantages, risks, pharmacology of the agents utilized, equipment, technique, and other opinions. Brief reference is made to the use of intravenous Evipal sodium for office anesthesia.

The text contains many repetitions. It might easily have been reduced in length without loss of context. The most valuable feature of this book is the author's emphasis upon careful attention to details and preparation of the patient for anesthesia, as well as the preoperative and postoperative handling of the patient by the anesthetist. The author apparently obtains full confidence and cooperation of his patients before induction of anesthesia. He stresses the importance of a slow induction and the use of minimal dosages of thiopental sodium. An impressive series of cases is discussed but very little space is devoted to the complications encountered.

P. C. LUND, M.D.

Chest Diseases. Section XV. Excerpta Medica—The International Medical Abstracting Service. Published monthly by Excerpta Medica, N.V., 111 Kalverstraat, Amsterdam C. (The Netherlands), Chief Editors: M. W. WOERDEMAN, M. FISHBEIN and SIR HENRIAGE OGILVIE. Edited in cooperation with the American College of Chest Physicians.

Abstracts in this periodical, now in its tenth year of publication, cover the world's medical literature and are grouped according to subject matter. The major classification is anatomical and includes: respiratory diseases, cardiovascular affections, diseases of the chest-wall and diaphragm, diseases of the mediastinum and diseases of the esophagus. In addition to a subgroup devoted to respiratory tuberculosis, there are two further groups concerned with tuberculosis of other organs, and general aspects of tuberculosis. A table of contents is given on the inside front cover, and an author index appears at the end of each issue. The abstracts include author, full title in original language and in