

THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

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

Lumbar Puncture and Spinal Analgesia. Second Edition. By SIR ROBERT MACINTOSH, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.S. (EDIN.), M.D. (HON. CAUSA), Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetics, University of Oxford, England. Cloth \$6.00. Pp. 142, with 111 illustrations. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Mount Royal and Guilford Avenues, Baltimore, Maryland, 1957.

Sir Robert Macintosh needs no introduction as an anesthesiologist and teacher. His interest in the modality of spinal analgesia has extended over many years and this experience has enabled him to outline the anatomical and physiological basis of successful lumbar puncture. The pitfalls of spinal puncture are discussed concurrently and the practical precautions emphasized. The author states his purpose in writing the original edition: "To include the things I should have liked to have readily available for myself when setting out on my first lumbar puncture and spinal anesthetics."

The information is concisely presented. The outstanding feature is the wealth of excellent illustrations. They make exposition almost superfluous, and if for no other reason, it is recommended that anesthesiologists peruse this monograph. The text is clear and studded with reasonable and practical safeguards. Classic source material is utilized accurately, especially Maxon's text "Spinal Anesthesia." This monograph could be more complete if discussion of spinal anesthetic agents other than nupercaine had been included and also a more representative treatment of specific gravities. This book is highly recommended both for the tyro and the practicing anesthesiologist.

VINCENT J. COLLINS, M.D.

Anesthesia: A Manual for Students and Physicians. Fifth Edition. By STUART C. CULLEN, M.D., Chairman, Division of Anesthesiology, Department of Surgery, State University of Iowa Hospitals, and Professor of Surgery (Anesthesia), State University of Iowa College of Medicine. Cloth \$5.50. Pp. 295, with 37 illustrations and 3 tables. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois St., Chicago, Illinois, 1957.

The fifth edition of Dr. Cullen's "Anesthesia" (formerly "Anesthesia in General Practice") is a welcome addition to the growing number of introductory manuals for students in anesthesia. It is written in his usual lucid style and spiced with his pungent cartoons—in this edition one new one of the unprepared and prepared patient. The most important revision is in the chapter dealing with the use of depressant drugs. This is most valuable but possibly a little impractical. On the basis of this chapter each anesthesiologist should be able to administer one anesthetic per day. The chapter "Airway" stands as before and should; it is and was a masterpiece. The book continues through Ventilation, Agents, Techniques, Regional and Local Procedures, Signs of Anesthesia, and other chapters. In the chapter "Treatment of Shock," the author now allows a small temporary position for the vasopressor drugs with volume replacement therapy. I wonder when the anesthesiologists are going to abandon Guedel's curve of metabolic rate, which every endocrinologist says is wrong, that metabolic rate is highest at birth and declines steadily throughout life.

ALICE McNEAL, M.D.