

Reading the book may enhance the physician's understanding of the patient facing an unknown and, to him, terrifying experience. Some readers may find the emotional overtones painfully bare.

ROBERT T. PATRICK, M.D.

Die Lachgas-Analgesie in der Zahnärztlichen Praxis (Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen Analgesia in Dental Practice). First Edition. BY DR. MED. DENT. PAUL VONOW (Zurich). Cloth \$6.50. Pp. 152, with 57 illustrations. Published by Medizinischer Verlag Hans Huber, Bern and Stuttgart, 1956. (Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.)

The author, a Swiss dentist, has been interested for many years in the production of safe and reliable nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia. He used this technique in over 10,000 patients. This monograph on nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia is based mainly on his own experiences, but whenever necessary, he has drawn freely on the experimental findings and clinical observations of others. It is intended primarily to serve as a guide for the practicing dentist in the theory and clinical application of nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia. The author emphasizes the basic differences between nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia and anesthesia, and points out that in the former, consciousness although affected, is always maintained. According to the author, the analgesic state is characterized by "quietness, relaxation, and little or no reaction to pain."

The history of dental analgesia, the pharmacological basis and clinical application of nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia, and the construction, safety, and usefulness of various types of apparatus for dental anesthesia are discussed in detail. There is an excellent description of the signs and symptoms of nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia, and a clear summary of the classical studies of Persson on the analgesic effects of various nitrous oxide-oxygen mixtures. The author also describes his own experimental results on the analgesic effects of various nitrous oxide-oxygen-air mixtures. Since the volume of air added to the measured amounts of nitrous oxide and oxygen is not specified, the nitrous oxide concentrations of the gas mixtures used cannot be determined. For this reason, these experiments have no theoretical significance, and are only useful from the practical point of view if the Dräger "Marius" anesthesia machine used by the author is employed.

This book is well written and illustrated. It contains much useful information on the safe and efficient application of nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia in dentistry. Although it has been written primarily for dentists, this monograph will also be useful to others interested in problems relevant to the analgesic state.

FRANCIS F. FOLDES, M.D.

Hypnography: A Study in the Therapeutic Use of Hypnotic Painting. BY AINSLIE MEARES, MBBS., B.Agr.Sc., DPM. Psychiatrist, Melbourne, Australia. Cloth \$7.75. Pp. 271, with 213 illustrations. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1957.

This volume presents a clinical study of the therapeutic use of hypnotic painting. The material is obtained almost entirely from the author's private practice of psychiatry. He presents his experiences in the hope that more psychiatrists will investigate this form of therapy.

Dr. Meares explains that traditionally medical hypnosis is employed for the removal of symptoms by hypnotic suggestion, and following the technique of Bernheim is an extremely authoritative form of treatment. Prestige and authority are used to master the patient in hypnosis and then the symptoms are dispelled by command. Freud used this technique early in his career, but soon preferred to have his patients recall past memories by free association when awake. From this he formulated his ideas of psychoanalysis. Since World War II there has been interest shown in reducing the cost and time involved in psychoanalysis, and therefore a return to hypnosis by analytically trained psychiatrists. The latter, however, have evolved new passive techniques as opposed to authoritative forms for the induction of hypnosis. In place of symptom

removal by suggestion, therapy is based on insight. This type of treatment has become known as hypnoanalysis, and succeeds because of the hypnotized patient's acknowledgment of repressed conflicts.

The author takes credit for the origin of hypnography. One of his patients when deeply hypnotized picked up a pencil by chance and began to draw. It was found after considerable questioning of the patient while still hypnotized that these drawings revealed conflicts that had not been aired by verbal hypno-analysis. It was tried on other patients and eventually a technique was standardized in which the patient projects his psychic material by painting in black paint on white paper, and while still hypnotized, his associations to the objects he has painted are obtained. The black paint was found most satisfactory since hypnotized patients hold a pencil or crayon so loosely it is difficult to draw. It was also found that color means little to the hypnotized patient and that drawing ability makes little difference in the type of drawing produced.

There are several chapters devoted to suggestions by the author in the preliminaries to and induction of hypnosis, the technique of hypnography, descriptions and interpretations of drawings, and there are over a hundred pages devoted to excerpts from case histories.

The book is well printed and illustrated and includes a list of papers by the author relating to medical hypnosis. In my opinion, it is a book the contents of which are entirely within the field of psychiatry and has no bearing on forms of medical hypnosis being used as anesthesia or as adjuncts to anesthesia.

RUTH M. ANDERSON, M.D.

Stosowanie podtlenku azotu do celów znieczulenia chirurgicznego. (Monograph on Nitrous Oxide and Its Uses in Surgery.) Doc. DR. MIECZYSLAW JUSTYNA, Warsaw, Poland. Pp. 84, with 12 illustrations. Paper. Published by the Ministry of Health, Central Division of Drugs, Medical Division, Warsaw, Poland, 1956.

This 84 page monograph presents in adequate detail the physical, chemical and pharmacologic properties of nitrous oxide and its anesthetic uses. The main portion of the booklet is devoted to the technique of administration of nitrous oxide as an analgesic alone and in combination with opiates, barbiturates, the various gases and the combination of opiate-antagonist. This monograph is well written and describes present uses of nitrous oxide but does not add anything new to present-day literature.

JOHN T. GENCZKO, M.D.

Nursing Care of the Surgical Patient. Sixth Edition. BY JOHN PETTIT WEST, M.D., Attending Surgeon, St. Luke's Hospital, New York, MANELVA WYLIE KELLER, B.S., R.N., formerly Chief Operating Room Nurse at St. Luke's Hospital, and ELIZABETH H. HARMON, M.A., R.N., Director of Nursing Service and School of Nursing, New Britain General Hospital, New Britain, Connecticut. Cloth \$5.75. Pp. 606, with 116 illustrations. The Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, 1957.

The competency of an anesthesiologist to comment on a textbook relating to nursing care of the surgical patient is open to question. However, he can review the sections in which he has a direct interest.

The preoperative care of the patient is handled well. Emphasis is placed on the role of the nurse in combatting fear and apprehension in the patient. Certainly she can play a most important part by relieving some of the "fears of the unknown."

The chapter on anesthesia is adequate, although suffering in one or two places from a carry-over from previous editions of the book. For example, thiopental sodium is rarely used in 5 per cent solution, as suggested, nor is ethyl chloride on many anesthetic shelves today. Another paragraph or two on muscle relaxant drugs might help to answer many questions which we receive from nurses regarding these drugs.

In the chapter on operating room nursing there is a good section on explosive hazards in relation to anesthesia. The necessity for stringent precautions is explained concisely but clearly.