

THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

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

Pharmacology in Medicine. A Collaborative Textbook. Second Edition. EDITED BY VICTOR A. DUNN, PH.D., M.D., Lecturer in Pharmacology, Northwestern University Medical School; Professorial Lecturer in Pharmacology, University of Illinois College of Medicine; Director of Biological Research, G. D. Searle and Company. Cloth \$19.50. Pp. 1273 with illustrations. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., Blakiston Division, New York, Toronto, London, 1958.

This large, authoritative volume is composed of 19 parts, which in turn encompass 88 chapters written by 86 outstanding contributors, including three professors of anesthesiology. Seventy-eight of the above contributors participated in the first edition.

The 19 divisions cover historical background and general principles of drug action, as well as drug preparations and prescription writing; general anesthetics; local anesthetics; adjuncts to anesthesia; sedation, hypnosis and analgesia; central nervous system stimulants; psychopharmacology; the autonomic nervous system; the cardiovascular system; water and salt balance; the gastrointestinal tract; dermatomucosal agents; the hematopoietic system; the metals and radioactive elements; gases, vapors and dusts; the vitamins and other nutritional factors; the endocrine glands and accessory reproductive organs; and specific chemotherapy. Consideration is given mainly to those drugs currently in practical use, including their mechanism of action, effect within the body and therapeutic value. At the end of the book there is an addendum to a previously written chapter and an adequate index. Each chapter closes with a list of references, some of which are extensive. Monographs and reviews occasionally are grouped separately under the references.

A wealth of up-to-date information is presented in this volume in a very concise and readable form. The illustrations are adequate and well selected. The general format of this book is excellent.

This publication is highly recommended as an excellent reference book for both medical students and physicians. All anesthesiologists will find much of vital concern to them in this comprehensive volume.

HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

Bases Physio-Biologiques et Principes Généraux de Réanimation. By H. LABORIT, Surgeon of the Maritimes Hospital, Paris, France, Holder of the Albert Lasker Prize of the American Public Health Association for 1957; with the collaboration of CARA, M., JOUASSET, D., DUCHESNE, G., and LABORIT, G. Paper 2.600 fr. Pp. 273, illustrated with tables, figures, and line drawings. Masson et Cie, Editors, Librairies de L'Académie de Médecine, 120 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris-VI, France, 1958.

This most recent book of Dr. Laborit and his colleagues is a broad review of the physiological and biological phenomena of normal and diseased cells, phenomena which, in the opinion of the author, must be thoroughly understood by any physician treating a diseased patient. Re-establishment of an harmonic organic function is particularly emphasized, in the difficult process of "reanimation" of cells.

More than half the book is devoted to electrolyte and fluid dynamics and the regulation of hydrogen ion concentration. The last portion of the book is devoted to the application of these basic physiological principles to "reanimation," which is translated by the reviewer as "resuscitation." The author's interest in artificial hibernation, and the effects of increasing and lowering body temperature are apparent.

The elaborate hypotheses proposed by Dr. Laborit will be most interesting, especially to those whose main interest is research in basic cellular function. The clinical anesthesiologist will be inspired further to increase his knowledge of basic function of body cells. Wide clinical application of the author's concepts, however, will probably await considerable additional information by other competent investigators.

ELIO BALDINI, M.D., AND
JOHN R. LINCOLN, M.D.

Clinical Enzymology. First Edition. BY GUSTAV J. MARTIN, Sc.D., Research Director, The National Drug Company, Philadelphia. Cloth \$6.00. Pp. 241, with 9 illustrations and 8 tables. Little Brown & Co., Boston, Mass., 1958.

This book has little value for practicing anesthesiologists. It is of value to anesthesiologists and scientists engaged in basic research in biochemistry and pharmacology, since a review of the systemic actions of parenterally administered enzymes is presented. In brief, the book is a collection of facts concerning present studies, past reports and suggestions regarding the future of enzymes and/or enzymic systems as therapeutic agents in the practice of medicine.

It is recommended as a worthwhile addition to the medical library of a large hospital or medical school.

P. C. LUND, M.D.

An Introduction to Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Ninth Edition. J. A. GUNN, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Oxford, and J. D. P. GRAHAM, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.S.P.S. (Glasgow), F.R.C.P. (Edinburgh), Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology, Welsh National School of Medicine, Cardiff. Cloth \$4.25. Pp. 327. Oxford University Press, London, 1958.

The acceptance of this volume in Britain is evidenced by the fact that this is the 9th edition. It is written as a short survey of pharmacology for medical students. The material is arranged under the usual headings of the site of drug action. There are no illustrations, few formulas, and no references to original work. The presentation is made in simple, logical, easily understood sentences. Since there are no references, some statements seem to be arbitrary, which is to be expected in a synopsis. For the sake of brevity, descriptions have been shortened to the point of mentioning physiological effects of drugs in many cases, rather than describing their method of pharmacological action. For example, the entire discussion of cyclopropane follows:

"CYCLOPROPANE, B.P., U.S.P., $(CH_2)_3$, a gas heavier than air, is a powerful anaesthetic. It is given in a concentration of 7-30 per cent, depending on the depth and duration of anaesthesia desired. The mixture is explosive and cyclopropane expensive, so that it is given by a closed-circuit apparatus both for safety and economy. Its chief advantages are the absence of irritation of the air passages and of asphyxia. It requires particularly expert administration. The cylinders are coloured orange."

The authors have maintained the book content up-to-date with the recent advances in pharmacology. The book should be of value to those who desire to survey present usage in the field.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.

Klinische Calorimetrie und Thermometrie. By DR. HELMUT KUEMMERLE, Research Assistant, Department of Gynecology, Universitäts-Frauenklinik Tübingen, Germany. Paper \$4.50 or DM 18. Pp. 112 with 52 illustrations. Georg Thieme, Publisher, Stuttgart, Germany, 1958.

This treatise is a review of the literature and personal experience regarding methods of measuring heat production and temperature in man. In a brief section on physics,