

sentatives, the "tetanic" or "sympatheticotonic" and the "pathic" or "vagotonic" type, each one requiring principally different anesthetic treatment.

After carefully re-reading, the practical result of Dr. Ferwer's rather elaborate psychological, philosophical, anthropological and biological contemplations boils down to the suggestion to give no atropine to the tetanic type and to approach the patient with a sergeant's voice and behavior ("Kasernenhofton") whereas bedside manners are preferable for the pathic personality.

In spite of some single striking observations, the general lack of content together with the extremely difficult and hazy language considerably injures the value of this well-intentioned work.

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••*Die Örtliche Betäubung Nach Ihrem Heutigen Stand,*" Local Anesthesia and its Development to its Present Stage. RICHARD GOLDHAHN, M.D., Director of the District Hospital in Liegnitz. 60 pages. Ferdinand Enke Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany, 1940. Price, R. M. 4.80.

This very instructive little book offers a review of all local anesthetics in use nowadays and their sphere of application. The author abstains* from opinions and recommendations, giving instead descriptions and references.

The first part deals with the chemistry of local anesthetics, the problems arising through the addition of suprenin, the comparison of anesthetic and toxic effects of different agents and

* With a few exceptions.

their combination with other agents, description of various forms of poisoning and their treatment and the administration of anesthetics as independent therapeutic measures. The latter is mentioned in reference to neuralgia, angina pectoris, angiospastic gangrene, postoperative intestinal paralysis, frostbite and stiffened joints. Another suggestion is to use anesthetic blockade around inflamed areas and to administer local anesthesia in order to accelerate the healing of wounds and ulcers.

As an improvement of technic, Goldhahn mentions Kirschner's high pressure local anesthesia.

A list of all available local anesthetics and a table showing the varying sensitivity of different organs complete the first general part of the book.

The second part is devoted to the description of special technic, mainly for major operations, indications and contraindications, statistics of complications and accidents. For amputations in older people, the author recommends infiltration of the cross-section of the affected limb at a level just above the site of amputation, preferably by means of Kirschner's high pressure apparatus.

The last chapters deal with all known modifications of spinal and peridural anesthesia and stress Kirschner's regulated segmental technic as a considerable progress.

Although Goldhahn's booklet cannot and is not intended to replace more elaborate and detailed works on block anesthesia, it will prove of high value to anyone who is interested in applicability and development of local anesthetic agents.

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