

## THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, *Editor*

**Physics for the Anaesthetist.** Second Edition. BY SIR ROBERT MACINTOSH, D.M., F.R.C.S.E., F.F.A.R.C.S., M.D. (HON. CAUSA), Buenos Aires and Aix-Marseilles, Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetics, University of Oxford; WILLIAM W. MUSHIN, M.A., M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S., Professor of Anaesthetics, Welsh National School of Medicine, University of Wales, Formerly First Assistant, Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics, University of Oxford, AND H. G. EPSTEIN, M.A., PH.D., F.F.A.R.C.S., First Assistant, Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics, University of Oxford. Cloth \$15.00. Pp. 443, with 379 illustrations. Charles C Thomas, Publishers, 301-327 E. Lawrence Ave., Springfield, Illinois, 1958.

This second edition is almost double the size of the first which was published in 1946, and over 100 new pages have been added concerning explosions. Few changes have been made in the first part of the book. Additional space could have been given to discussion of the electronic equipment now present in operating rooms. This book should be read by all anesthesiologists, since it contains a wealth of practical information.

M. DICBY LEIGH, M.D.

**Illustrated Preoperative and Postoperative Care.** BY PHILIP THOREK, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., Professor of Surgery, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine, with drawings by CARL T. LINDEN. Cloth \$5.00. Pp. 98, with 60 illustrations. J. B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia 5; 4865 Weston Ave., Montreal, 1958.

This is a concise, well organized and profusely illustrated text. It has two sections, one of 17 pages on Preoperative Care and one of 71 pages on Postoperative Care. In the Preface the author states that he wishes to re-emphasize many well-known, but often overlooked, practical aspects of diagnosis and treat-

ment which have been overshadowed in recent years by enthusiasm for newer and often complicated laboratory tests, and by research stimulated treatments. Much of the text is in outline form, and the illustrations have been so well planned and executed that the point each makes is at once obvious and easily remembered. There is an excellent small section emphasizing the dangers of the 'let-up' in the immediate postoperative period, namely, the time between the last stitch and the trip to the recovery room. Although this is the only section relating directly to anesthesia, there are several chapters which the anesthesiologist will find useful for study and reference. These include one on parenteral fluids and another on acidosis and alkalosis, both dealing with biochemistry, diagnosis, and treatment. The reader is advised to seek other more specific texts for details of management in the recovery room, although the author stresses a few points of special concern to him.

RUTH ANDERSON, M.D.

**Electrocardiography.** BY MICHAEL BERNREITER, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Kansas Medical School; Chief of Electrocardiography, St. Mary's Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri. Cloth \$5.00. Pp. 134 with 92 figures and 1 table. J. B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia 5; 4865 Western Ave., Montreal, 1958.

Since the recent advent of safe and conveniently engineered instruments for monitoring the electrocardiogram in the operating room, many conscientious anesthesiologists have had to question their competency to interpret the traces they view daily. Doctor Bernreiter's little manual is ideally suited to refresh the memory of long forgotten lessons in this useful science and to clarify those points concerning polarity of leads and the significance of the various phases of the cycle which were never quite mastered.

The text is brief—almost telegraphic—and is amply illustrated with simple diagrams and many actual electrocardiograms. The first and longest chapter presents the basic physical principles underlying the electrical phenomena associated with heart action. Despite brutally oversimplified circuit diagrams which fail to provide a completed path for the flow of currents, the reader is persuaded that he can now interpret tracings without relying on "pattern memorization." The rest of the text systematically covers the elementary findings in cardiac arrhythmias, heart block, ventricular hypertrophy, ischemia and death of myocardium, electrolyte imbalances, and the effects of digitalis and quinidine. Two useful paragraphs and a table are devoted to the significance and normal limits of the QT interval.

DUNCAN A. HOLADAY, M.D.

**An Introduction to Chest Surgery.** By GEORGE FREY FLAVELL, F.R.C.S. (ENGLAND), M.R.C.P. (LONDON), Thoracic Surgeon, The London Hospital. Cloth \$7.50. Pp. 354, with 180 illustrations. Oxford University Press, Amen House, Warwick Sq., London; 114 Fifth Ave., New York 11, 1957.

The author's stated objective in preparing this introductory textbook of chest surgery was to produce a book which would be readable and inexpensive. In his own words he has "taken the unusual course of writing this book in current English, hoping one day to see a student read it in a train." In the opinion of this reviewer he has in large measure accomplished his purpose.

The book is divided into three parts. The first, comprising more than two-thirds of the total volume, is devoted to surgery of the lungs, pleura, and thoracic confines. The other two are entitled "Surgery of the Esophagus" and "Surgery of the Heart and Great Vessels," respectively. The diagnosis and selection of patients for surgery is covered adequately, and descriptions of many of the principal operations are included. In addition to 52 diagrammatic drawings illustrating the text, there are 128 roentgenograms. The latter, although they are necessarily small in scale, are remarkable in clarity of reproduction. There is no bibliography included. The book is well indexed for reference.

This book is recommended for reading and reference by the anesthesiologist and by residents in anesthesiology.

JULIA G. ARROWOOD, M.D.

**Pediatric Surgery.** By ORVAR SWENSON, M.D., Surgeon-in Chief, The Boston Floating Hospital for Infants and Children; Professor of Pediatric Surgery, Tufts University School of Medicine. Cloth \$20.00. Pp. 740, with more than 200 illustrations. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 35 W. 32nd St., New York 1, 1958.

This textbook on pediatric surgery is an excellent supplement to texts on general surgery which deal primarily with adult surgical problems. Minor surgical procedures that are frequently treated rather casually in many texts are described in considerable detail. This feature alone makes Dr. Swenson's text a valuable reference book for any of the house staff, as well as for the young surgeon whose experience with pediatric problems is often limited. The entire volume is illustrated exceptionally well.

Many surgeons with limited pediatric experience may depend on the anesthesiologist to evaluate the patient preoperatively and Dr. Swenson lists basic principles for the anesthesiologist. Chapters on anesthesia discuss induction, equipment, indications for endotracheal intubation and complications. No attempt is made to discuss physiology or pharmacology as related to pediatric anesthesiology.

WILLIAM O. MCQUISTON, M.D.

**Encyclopédie Médico-Chirurgicale. Anesthésie-Reanimation.** Published under the direction of Drs. J. BAUMANN, E. KERN, AND J. LASSNER. Cloth. Pp. 653, 98 parts, with 275 illustrations. Encyclopédie Médico-Chirurgicale, 18, rue Séguier, Paris 6<sup>e</sup>, France, 1958.

This volume, edited by the Professor of Anesthesiology of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris in collaboration with 50 other anesthesiologists, is one of a 27-volume Encyclopedia of Medicine and Surgery published in French. It reviews the field of Anesthesia and Resuscitation.

The volume is printed on excellent paper with clear, large illustrations and charts. The