

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 GEOFFREY 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