

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 GEOF-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 anesthesia.

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

subject material as outlined and reported by the authors of the various sections is concise, informative and documented for the most part with an excellent bibliography at the end of each section. The articles cited are up-to-date and the reviewer is happy to see that articles other than those in the European literature are mentioned.

One can pick out various sections and disagree with techniques and conclusions. In the description of the practice of anesthesia in France, the reviewer was disappointed to note that in the illustrations and text on the subject of subarachnoid anesthesia draping of the patient and the use of sterile gloves are not in evidence. The sections on history, pharmacology, physiology of respiration and circulation, as well as those on physics for the anesthetist and apparatus, are quite inclusive. The volume also contains sections closely allied to the specialty of anesthesia such as blood typing, transfusion, exchange transfusion, techniques of venopuncture, fluid therapy, etc. The section on oxygen therapy is short but no important details were omitted. There is also a well written and valuable chapter on premedication and anesthesia for the experimental animal, including dosages and routes of administration.

For the anesthesiologist who reads French, be he resident or practitioner, this is an excellent reference and text book.

PAUL R. DUMKE, M.D.

**Die Postoperativen Frühkomplikationen.** BY DOZ. DR. KURT WIEMERS AND DR. ERNST KERN, Freiburg/Br. Cloth DM 38 (about \$9). Pp. 262, with 52 illustrations. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart; Intercontinental Medical Book Corp., New York 16, 1957.

This book is a far-reaching presentation of postoperative complications written by doctors of wide clinical experience. It presents collectively an abundance of clinical experiences and practical methods otherwise found only scattered in single works. Clinically tried and

proven methods are emphasized, but the literature also is amply cited.

There are three chief sections of the book. The first concerns the physio-pathology of the postoperative phase and is composed of chapters regarding respiratory complications; changes in blood and electrolyte content and renal function; circulatory complications on both the side of the heart and the peripheral circulation, and also thrombi and emboli; and, a final interesting chapter regarding postoperative psychic changes.

The second large division concerns special early postoperative complications as related to particular areas of the body. Thus there are considered complications of thoracotomy *per se* regarding atelectasis, pneumothorax, mediastinal emphysema, etc.; complications after operations on the lung, and after operations on the heart. Similarly considered are: complications after abdominal procedures, after operations on endocrine glands, or on the extremities and skeletal system, after severe burns, the treatment of tetanus, and pediatric and geriatric procedures.

The final chief section of the monograph is an excellent one on techniques for care of the various complications already considered. The previous sections are well documented and illustrated, but this third section is even more completely covered. Methods for blind nasal intubation, for topical anesthetization for bronchoscopies, etc., are described and illustrated.

All points are well and thoroughly discussed. The illustrations are excellent. Some of the graphs and tabulations are exceptionally useful. There is the disadvantage, of course, of the complicated method of expression in the German language, and that the reading may prove tedious and prolonged. In a final section references to the literature are grouped according to the postoperative complications concerned and should be of particular interest to the surgeon or anesthesiologist.

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