

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.

O. S. ORTH, M.D.