

THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

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Pain. By HAROLD G. WOLFF, M.D., Professor of Medicine (Neurology), Cornell University Medical College, New York City, and STEWART WOLF, M.D., Professor and Head, Department of Medicine, University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Cloth \$4.25. Pp. 121, with 20 illustrations. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Ave., Springfield, Illinois; Blackwell Scientific Publications Limited, Oxford, England, and Ryerson Press, Queen Street West, Toronto 2, Canada, 1958.

The revised second edition of this monograph has been brought up-to-date by considerable new data supporting the current views on pain, but the essential character of this publication remains that of a small digest of the general subject. This book is divided into three sections that deal, respectively, with the nature, the perception, and the management of pain. Much of the material is based upon extensive researches carried out by the authors and their colleagues during the course of the past two decades, but there is sufficient reference to the studies of others to make the book a laudable synthesis of the presently available knowledge of pain.

The conciseness of this volume prohibits the vast detail found in several recently-published comprehensive works devoted to pain, but this lucid conciseness should be of great appeal to the busy physician. Many anesthesiologists may be amazed at the amount of contained material which had previously slipped by their attention, and residents in training in anesthesiology will find a succinct storehouse of information on a complex subject.

The book is well written, well illustrated, and well documented; and as one of the Thomas' American Lecture Series in Physiology, it is well printed in the usual fashion for such monographs.

DAVID M. LITTLE, JR., M.D.

Lokalanästhesie und Lokalanästhetika. By HANS KILLIAN, M.D., Freiburg i. Br., Germany. Cloth \$36.65 (154 D.M.). Pp. 770, with 367 illustrations. Georg Thieme Verlag, Herdweg 63, Stuttgart, 1959.

This monumental volume has been edited and largely written by Professor Dr. Hans Killian, a surgeon, who is well known in Central Europe for his interest in anesthesiology. He is the author of a handbook on Anesthesiology and of another on Resuscitation. Most of the contributors are surgeons. Accordingly the opinions expressed, although on the whole highly scientific, are usually those of the surgeon, and often not those of the anesthesiologist. The structure of the book is scholarly and its contents comprehensive, sometimes too much so. Detailed description of techniques condemned by the author of the chapter himself (e.g., Huneke's method, p. 739), is not only unnecessary, but also disturbing. There are occasional statements which are contrary to accepted standards in this country, as well as potentially dangerous. Thus, for example, few anesthesiologists would go along with the idea that "the concentration of novocain for spinal anesthesia should be at least 5%." The use of unfamiliar trade names instead of internationally accepted generic or chemical names is confusing. Despite the above criticisms, this volume is a veritable storehouse of information on the history of regional anesthesia; the physiological basis of pain perception and conduction; the chemistry and pharmacology of local anesthetic agents; the systemic effects of local anesthetics; techniques of conduction anesthesia together with their indications, contraindications and complications; and many other topics. The printing is clear, and the illustrations are excellent. The bibliography, if not comprehensive, is adequate.

It is doubtful whether the practicing anesthesiologist would find enough information not already available in standard English language texts, to make worthwhile the purchase