

THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D., *Editor*

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 Anesthesia 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

of this expensive volume. On the other hand, it contains enough interesting detail to make it a useful addition to medical libraries in general, and especially to the libraries of Anesthesia Departments engaged in teaching and research.

FRANCIS F. FOLDES, M.D.

A Manual of Anaesthetic Techniques. Second Edition. By WILLIAM J. PRYOR, M.B., Ch.B. (N.Z.), F.F.A. R.C.S. (Eng.), D.A. (Eng.), F.F.A. R.A.C.S., Anaesthetist, Thoracic Unit, Christchurch Hospital (N.Z.) and Late Anaesthetic Registrar, The London and Poplar Hospitals, London, England. Foreword by the Late J. H. T. Challis, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.F.A. R.C.S. (Eng.), D.A. (Eng.), Formerly Senior Anaesthetist, The London Hospital. Cloth \$7.00. Pp. 228, with 75 illustrations. John Wright & Sons Ltd., Bristol, England, 1959. Obtainable from The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore 2, Md., U.S.A., exclusive U.S. agents.

This is the second edition of an excellent manual on equipment. The reviewer doubts that it will have a wide sale in this country since so many drugs and pieces of equipment have names which are strange to us. Especially recommended is the chapter, albeit much abbreviated, on "Pre-operative Conditions Requiring Special Care." I think almost anyone in the U.S.A. would be startled to read in the chapter on "Premedication" that the recommended dosage of atropine sulfate for an infant up to one year of age is 0.4 mg. The chief virtue of the book to this department is to stimulate us to complete our own procedure manual.

ALICE MCNEAL, M.D.

Narcotics. Lingo and Lore. By J. E. SCHMIDT, Ph. B.S., M.D., Litt.D., Pres. The American Society of Grammatolators. Cloth \$4.25. Pp. 199, without illustrations. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Ave., Springfield, Illinois, 1959.

This book is a small lexicon published to clarify slang and other terms used by illegal dealers and users of narcotics. It has been compiled by the Chairman of the National Association on Standard Medical Vocabulary. The author has made much effort to differentiate multiple slang synonyms from one another. It is to be recommended to those who are interested in learning the meaning of the terminology used by drug addicts.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.

Les Médicaments du Système Nerveux Cérébro-Spinal. Masson et Cie, Editors. Published under the direction of Professor F. Mercier. Paper 5800 francs. Pp. 573, with illustrations. Masson et Cie, Éditeurs, Libraires de l'Académie de Médecine, 120 Boul. Saint-Germain, Paris 6^e, 1959.

This is a weighty volume, in a physical sense as well as in its content. For the anesthesiologist who reads French it covers in 12 chapters groups of drugs having similar actions. It is a pharmacological textbook with excellent bibliography and a large index. The chapters are up-to-date and contain much which has only recently been published in various journals. The book is not written primarily for the anesthesiologist, but is well worth reading by anyone interested in drugs acting on the central nervous system. The volume is paper backed and the binding breaks down easily.

PAUL R. DUMKE, M.D.