

THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST'S BOOKSHELF

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

Anesthesia for Infants and Children. By ROBERT M. SMITH, M.D., Anesthesiologist, The Children's Medical Center, Boston; Assistant Clinical Professor of Anesthesia, Harvard Medical School; Consultant in Anesthesia, U. S. Naval Hospital, Chelsea; and Lemuel Shattuck, Hospital, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. FOREWORD BY ROBERT E. GROSS, M.D. Cloth \$12.00. Pp. 418, with 182 illustrations. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Missouri, 1959.

The author of this much needed volume is an excellent teacher, interesting lecturer and careful investigator of problems in pediatric anesthesia. He writes with the authority of one who has been associated for many years with Dr. Gross, author of the volume, "Pediatric Surgery," which many surgeons consider as their "Bible."

"Anesthesia for Infants and Children" is more than just a recitation of the author's vast experience. Dr. Smith has culled valuable bits of information from the numerous articles on both technical and theoretical aspects of this rapidly developing and expanding subject which have been widely distributed throughout anesthesia journals and texts, as well as in pediatric, surgical and general medical literature. Here, in one well-written volume, the author has organized and evaluated this information in the light of his own experience.

The author assumes that those who will use this book are already familiar with general anesthesia, and consequently, omits detailed information concerning agents and techniques commonly used for adult anesthesia. The emphasis is placed instead on the anesthetic management of young children which often depends on an intimate knowledge of pediatric physiology, pathology and surgery.

The 31 chapters may be grouped according to subject matter. The first 5 chapters pertain to general physiologic and biologic responses of infants and children to varying conditions and preoperative medication. The next 11 chapters discuss equipment, agents and tech-

niques. In this group are chapters on "Endotracheal Intubation," "Intravenous Barbiturates" and "The Use of Relaxants." Chapter 17 is on "Anesthesia for Infants Under One Year of Age." This age group presents many problems that are unique at this time of life, and Dr. Smith's extensive experience with the newborn makes this chapter outstanding. The next 7 chapters are discussions of anesthesia for various types of surgical procedures, each chapter being devoted to a particular subject, such as, thoracic surgery, general and plastic surgery, orthopedic surgery, and neurosurgery. The next 5 chapters are of a more general nature. They include a chapter on "Special Problems in Pediatric Anesthesia" and one on a phase of pediatric anesthesia that is often poorly managed: "Fluid Therapy and Blood Replacement." The last chapter discusses a subject that is of considerable concern to all who anesthetize children, "Legal Aspects of Pediatric Anesthesia."

The book is generously illustrated by well-chosen photographs, and the text is printed with an easily readable type on an excellent grade of paper.

In summary, this reviewer is of the opinion that this volume is the most complete, comprehensive and authoritative book yet written on the subject of pediatric anesthesia. It is an outstanding textbook and should be studied by anesthesiologists, surgeons and pediatricians.

WILLIAM O. MCQUISTON, M.D.

The Surgeon and the Child. By WILLIS J. POTTS, M.D., Surgeon in Chief, Children's Memorial Hospital; Professor of Pediatric Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago. Cloth \$7.50. Pp. 255, line drawings. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1959.

This book is an account of the personal experiences of an eminent pediatric surgeon. It is not a book on surgical technique nor a detailed accounting of any operations. It is