

Beta-phenylisopropylhydrazin (J.B.516) auf die narkotische Wirkung und den Abbau von Hexobarbital und Thiopental" by E. Arrigoni-Martelli and M. Kramer (Milano); "Über die Dosis-Wirkungs-Abhängigkeit bei der Therapie experimenteller Entzündungsmodelle mit Antiphlogistica (I. Prednison)" by G. L. Haberland (Wuppertal-Eberfeld); "5-Hydroxytryptamin (5-H T) und hyperergische Reaktion" by K. Mörsdorf and L. Fehres (Bonn); and "Blockierung der Hyaluronidasehemmung durch Ergotamin tartrat" by H. Mathies, A. Glück, J. Poulantzas and D. Schmidt (München). All articles are well organized and presented. Most are followed by a list of references.

If succeeding issues are comparable to this first issue, the aims of the editors will be well met. If more original articles were published in English this journal would be more useful to those in this country who have limited facility with a foreign language. Those familiar with German and French will find this new publication very useful. The printing is good and the quality of paper adequate. A minimum of advertisements appear in this first issue. The editors are to be commended upon this excellent undertaking.

HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

Stress and Cellular Function. By H. LABORIT, M.D., Médecin en Chef de la Marine Française; Directeur de la Section de Recherches Physiobiologiques de la Marine Nationale Française; Chirurgien de Hôpitaux Maritimes; Membre Associé National de l'Académie de Chirurgie; Recipient of the Albert Lasker Award, 1957; in collaboration with M. CARA, M.D., D. JOUASSET, M.D., C. DUCHESNE, M.D. and G. LABORIT, M.D. Cloth. \$7.50. Pp. 255 with 61 illustrations and 6 tables. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and Montreal, 1959.

This book is a reference manual of physiology and pharmacology with emphasis on cellular function by a widely-known French physician and scientist. It is a translation of the original French edition which appeared under the title "Resuscitation: Physiobiological Bases and General Principles," published by Masson and Cie, Paris. The purpose of this

text is to outline a comprehensive therapeutic approach in which the resources of pharmacology will combine with a wide variety of other therapeutic agents, some biologic, some hormonal, yet others purely physical. The author stresses that whatever the type of injury, the systemic reaction varies but little.

The approach to the various subjects, i.e., regulation of water-electrolyte balance, acid-base regulation, the H ion excretory systems (respiratory, cardiovascular, and renal systems) is different from the ordinary text. The chapter on neuroplegia and artificial hibernation which includes in detail the pharmacology of chlorpromazine, should be of value and interest to the anesthesiologist. The type is clear. Illustrations are mainly line drawings and graphs with a few tables and photographs. Line drawings are simple and well labeled. All of these are larger than average in size. References are clearly stated. This book is a comprehensive correlated source of information dealing essentially with pharmacologic therapy applicable to various branches of medicine.

PEARL G. McNALL, M.D.

Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vol. 2, No. 4, Advances in Gynecologic Surgery, edited by S. B. GUSBERG, M.D.; Cesarean Section edited by EDWIN J. DeCOSTA, M.D. A quarterly publication, Cloth, pp. 937 to 1228, with illustrations. Price \$18.00 per year. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Dept. of Harper & Bros., 49 E. 33rd St., New York 16, New York, 1959.

Twenty-two authors have contributed to this volume. Anesthesia and cesarean section are discussed in four chapters, all written by obstetricians. Greenhill discusses inhalation and spinal anesthesia in two pages, and devotes eight pages to the details of local anesthesia, a technique which should be part of the training of every obstetrician. He mentions the rare occurrence of idiosyncrasy to local anesthetic agents, but does not recognize or discuss the evils of overdosage with such agents—"too much too fast." Possibly he has not experienced this complication since he recommends the use only of 0.5 per cent procaine. We disagree with one of the

15 advantages listed, *i.e.*, "Asphyxia of the child is absent." The use of local anesthesia will not guarantee absence of asphyxia in the infant, since the three main causes, decreased uterine blood flow, compression of the cord, and placental separation, are generally unrelated to anesthesia. Biochemical studies of mother and infant during local anesthesia for cesarean section are obviously needed to confirm this point. Epidermal and intravenous anesthesia are not discussed, nor is the use of relaxants or hypnosis.

Bryant summarizes maternal complications and mortality following cesarean section. Anesthesia ties with embolism as the fourth cause of death. Thirty-eight deaths occurred, representing an unstated number of deliveries, collected from articles by 28 different authors. His hope for an "ideal anesthetic agent" is shared by all of us, but will not be attained until all patients are alike.

Hesseltine analyzes the risk to the fetus from delivery by cesarean section. He discusses the route of anesthesia thoughtfully, and concludes that local and spinal anesthesia probably have a slight advantage over inhalation anesthesia. He stresses, very properly, the great care needed to avoid the delivery of a premature infant by elective cesarean section.

Riva suggests lightening of inhalation anesthesia just before uterine incision in order to permit the uterus to contract. One wonders if his patients are being carried in unnecessarily deep planes.

It would be well for anesthesiologists to read all of these chapters in order to be aware of the current thought of obstetricians on this important subject.

VIRGINIA APGAR, M.D.

Measurement of Subjective Responses.

Quantitative Effects of Drugs. By HENRY K. BEECHER, M.D., Henry Isaiah Dorr Professor of Research in Anaesthesia, Harvard University, Boston, Mass. Cloth. \$12.75. Pp. 494 with 77 tables. New York, Oxford University Press, 1959.

This book was written by a man who is one of the authorities in the field, and well known to anesthesiologists. He brings together his

own work and that of others, emphasizing the importance of careful design of experiments, quantitative evaluation, and avoidance of the pitfalls which make many reports unreliable. Much of the book is devoted to studies on man, making the results of direct value in clinical practice.

The book is divided into two sections. One is devoted to the evaluation of types of pain, methods of measuring pain, and determination of the effect of drugs on pain sensation. Among the interesting subjects discussed are the difficulty of defining pain, differences between pain of pathological origin and that produced experimentally, and the importance of subjective response, psychic reaction, and significance to the individual. The various methods of producing pain experimentally, and the organs involved, are discussed. They are evaluated as to reproducibility and usefulness for experimental work. A chapter is devoted to the pain threshold, and there are several chapters devoted to analgesic agents, drug interactions, other factors which modify the pain threshold, and placebos and placebo reactors.

The extensive study of pain in the first section of the book serves as the prototype for the second section, in which other subjective states are considered. It is the author's aim to show that quantitative studies are possible, and will yield valuable information, in such areas as mental clouding, sedation, euphoria, anxiety, nausea and pruritus. Since many drugs are administered for the purpose of altering subjective responses, and additional drugs of this type are being introduced in large numbers, quantitative and reliable studies are urgently needed.

A chapter on statistical problems was written by Frederick Mosteller, Professor of Mathematical Statistics at Harvard University. In a brief discussion of experimental design and evaluation of data, he points out how to avoid common errors and arrive at statistically valid results.

This well-written work is comprehensive and detailed. More than 1,000 references are cited, making it easy for the reader to pursue his interests by obtaining the source material. Good paper and clear print make the volume attractive as well as useful.