DOLPH M. GREBE. Paper. $7.50. Pp. 393 with 133 tables and 24 graphs. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelpiha and London, 1959.

This book is the tenth in a series of publications, each containing information, chiefly tabular, in one or more fields of the biological sciences. These handbooks have been prepared under the general direction of the Committee on the Handbook of Biological Data, Division of Biology and Agriculture, National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council.

The information for the present handbook was prepared and contributed by leading authorities in the field of circulation. The data were tabulated and edited by the handbook staff, then critically reviewed and authenticated by experts in the areas covered in this volume.

The Handbook of Circulation is presented as the companion volume to the Handbook of Respiration. Its purpose is to make available in a single, comprehensive compilation useful data on circulation, organized for ready reference in the form of tables, graphs, diagrams, and drawings. Efforts are made throughout to statistically evaluate the reliability of the data presented. The work includes a great quantity of data on circulation, both in man and in other vertebrates. The contents include Circulatory Anatomy; Chemical Composition and Physical Properties; Blood Volumes; Cardiac Output; Heart Rate; Blood Pressures; Blood Flow and Lymph Flow; The Electrocardiogram; Heart Sounds and Murmurs; Effect of Pregnancy; Effect of Compression, Decompression, and Acceleration; Effect of Radiation; Blood Coagulants and Anticoagulants; Effect of Drugs and Chemical Substances; Translocation in Plants; and Effect of Pathologic Conditions. There are three appendices which give aid in calculations of clinical values.

This material should be of tremendous value to anyone doing research on circulation or applying results to clinical situations. References to original work are abundant, so this is a good source of background information for starting or bringing up-to-date projects in nearly every phase of the field of circulation. It should be in the library of anyone interested in variables which accompany circulatory changes. This is a monumental work.

The book is lithographed with a paper back. The figures and type are clear cut and easily read.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.

On the Inhalation of the Vapour of Ether. By JOHN SNOW. Reprint. Cloth $5.00. Under auspices of Wood-Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, 131 West 11th Street, New York 11, N. Y.

A fine edition of the classic work of John Snow on ether has been prepared by the Wood Library Museum of Anesthesiology. The cover is in the tradition of the original Churchill edition. A high grade paper has been used and the work is printed with type similar to that of the middle 19th Century. A frontpiece photograph of John Snow and a preface have been added.

This reprint has been desired by many and is a landmark in the history of anesthesia. It is recommended to all anesthesiologists and collectors of historically important medical books and incunabula.

VINCENT J. COLLINS, M.D.

L'Électrocardiogramme Dysmétabolique. First Edition. By A. LARCAN and C. HURIET. Paper 2,500 francs (French). Pp. 221, with 29 figures, 10 tables. Masson & Cie, Éditeurs, 120 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris 6, 1959.

During the past decade there has been increasing interest in the electrocradiographic changes found during the course of disorders affecting the electrolytic composition of body fluids. Although the electrocardiogram is not a substitute for accurate chemical estimations, such a method of investigation has become of practical value in rapidly reinforcing the assessment of a clinical situation. This French monograph, written by two members of the medical center at Nancy, sets out to analyze the present state of knowledge of this subject. The bulk of the text is devoted to the influence of potassium levels on the electrocardiogram and deals fully with changes found in both hyperkalemia and hypokalemia. The concept of the potassium gradient is fully discussed

in terms of its effect on myocardial function and resultant alterations in the electrocardiogram. The remainder of the text includes the effect of changes of calcium and magnesium levels on the electrocardiogram, and there is a brief summary concerning the more exotic ionic elements such as rubidium and strontium. The authors use illustrative material from their own cases, and these illustrations are clear and well presented.

This book is basically a well balanced review of existing knowledge, and as such, contains a comprehensive and up-to-date bibliography of more than 500 references. It is likely to be of primary interest to the internist and cardiologist, but may be read with profit by those concerned with pre- and postoperative management. In the field of anesthesiology its value is probably limited, but those in this area who wish to obtain a clearer concept of such changes would find it useful. In summary, this is an excellent review of a subject with some practical application and much theoretical interest.

THOMAS C. GIBSON, M.D.
DAVID A. DAVIS, M.D.

Drugs of Choice, 1960-1961. By WALTER MODELL, M.D., Editor, Director of Clinical Pharmacology and Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Cornell University Medical College. Cloth $13.50. Pp. 958 with 24 illustrations and 55 tables. Second Edition. St. Louis, Missouri. The C. V. Mosby Co., 1960.

This text first appeared in the 1958-1959 edition as the aid so needed by all those in medical practice who were attempting to keep up with the "explosion" of new drugs. The editor in the present edition has added eight new chapters and 13 new contributors to make a total of 42 chapters and 47 eminent authors for a highly authoritative reference book.

From the initial chapter on "Principles of the Choice of Drugs" by the editor himself, to the final chapter on "The Choice of Drugs for the Treatment of Poisoning" there is presented in condensed form the entire gamut for the practice of medicine, both for the specialist and the general practitioner. In the area of anesthesiology, "The Choice of Drugs for the Relief of Pain" by John J. Bonica, M.D. and "The Choice of an Anesthetic" by Joseph F. Artusio, Jr., M.D. are well covered. The manner in which the latter subject is presented is unique. There is nothing particularly profound or new for the anesthesiologist in this area, but the basic presentation could well be considered by many of us.

All-in-all the chief value of this book is the collection in one volume of the drugs the specialists in each particular field consider the best which are available right at this time. A single all-inclusive *Drug Index* of 100 pages at the end of the book should be a very valuable reference source.

O. S. ORTH, M.D.

Cardiac Resuscitation. Edited by J. WILLIS HURST, M.D., Professor and Chairman Department of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia. First Edition. Cloth $5.50. Pp. 141 with 29 illustrations. Springfield, Illinois. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 1960.

This book is a compilation of the proceedings of a symposium held at Emory University School of Medicine in October 1958. The problem of cardiac resuscitation is thus looked at by a neurologist, cardiologist, surgeon, an anesthesiologist, an attorney, and a theologian. The contributors to the book and the subjects they present are: 1. *Oxygen and the Brain* by Herbert R. Karp, M.D., internist of Emory University. This chapter presents pathologic and physiologic data emphasizing the urgent dependence of the brain on oxygen. A discussion of manifestations which aid in prognosis following restoration of cardiac activity is included. 2. *Cardiac Resuscitation and the Internist* by Paul M. Zoll, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. This contributor discusses, primarily, the problem of cardiac arrest occurring outside the operating room due to cardiac disease, "cardiac" drugs and reflex activity. He emphasizes the principles governing the use of the external pacemaker and defibrillators. This chapter is illustrated with electrocardiograms showing the onset and treatment of cardiac arrest. A lucid discusson of the role of various drugs in treatment of this emergency situa-