An alphabetically arranged bibliography occupies the last 24 pages of the volume, but there is a notable lack of consistency in the method of tabulating references. The titles of some articles are included, while many titles are omitted; abbreviations are clear, although they do not conform to the Index Medicus. The final pages of the book contain about 70 corrections of errors which might better have been noted and changed in the proofs, before publication.

Anesthesiologists who favor the rectal route for the production of basal narcosis will find this book to be a useful review, provided they read Italian.

ELIO BALDINI, M.D.
JOHN R. LINCOLN, M.D.

The Pharmacology of Anesthetic Drugs. Revised Fourth Edition. By JOHN ADRIANI, M.D., Director, Department of Anesthesiology, Charity Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana. Cloth. 11.00. Pp. 232, with illustrations. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1960.

Dr. John Adriani's world-wide reputation as a teacher of anesthesiology and his many textbooks for students of anesthesiology qualify him as an outstanding author in this field. This work is a revision of the Fourth Edition of "The Pharmacology of Anesthetic Drugs," which has been the outstanding teaching and reference textbook of pharmacology for anesthesiologists since 1940. Using a standardized form of presentation for each group of drugs studied, the essential information regarding these drugs is presented. Knowing the outline form, the reader can quickly and easily obtain the information sought. Detailed information on all drugs is not presented. Of great usefulness is a bibliography at the end of the book, with authors listed alphabetically under each group of drugs, followed by abbreviated titles of each work. Changes from the Third Edition include addition of the newer anesthetic drugs such as the fluoronated hydrocarbons, hydroxydione, the ataractics, and several local anesthetic drugs. The section on muscle relaxants has been completely revised in accordance with newer concepts. New sections include a discussion of alterations of pulmonary physiology during general anesthesia, effects on anoxia on circulation and respiration, electroencephalography, hypotension deliberately induced during anesthesia, and hypothermia during anesthesia. In addition, many small changes have been made to bring the material up-to-date. While literature, research, and review articles are necessary for the anesthesiologist in training to obtain more complete information on the pharmacology of certain drugs or groups of drugs, this work remains the outstanding source of general information on the pharmacology of drugs used during anesthesia, and is an excellent reference book for quickly obtaining information regarding drug action. It should be noted that the title is now somewhat of a misnomer, because it presents the pharmacology of drugs used during anesthesia rather than just anesthetic drugs.

D. W. EASTWOOD, M.D.

Xylocaine. Chemistry, Pharmacology and Clinical Applications. Astra, Pharmaceutical Products, Inc. With the assistance of ORAL B. CRAWFORD, M.D., GILBERT VINTON HALLOCK, M.D., ALDO P. TRUANT, PH.D. and ARTHUR S. WILDER, M.A. Cloth. Pp. 79, with 10 tables and 11 figures. Astra Pharmaceutical Products, Inc., Worcester, Massachusetts, 1960.

This book is published by the pharmaceutical house where the product is manufactured. For this reason there is bias in favor of the drug; however it is an unusually scholarly and complete discussion of its pharmacologic effects, clinical usage, and the complications which may follow its use. There is an excellent, but somewhat esoteric discussion of the physico-chemical properties of this compound which represents a departure from the more common ester group of local agents. Certain advantages in its reactions are adduced from this structural difference.

ALICE MCNEAL, M.D.