

of paraldehyde receives undue attention. There is a long discussion of barbiturates but no mention of the many new "tranquilizing" drugs. Although Doctor Greenhill recognizes the usefulness of the anesthesiologists in spinal anesthesia, he is obviously partial to local anesthesia, and probably rightly so, in view of a lack of interested and capable obstetric anesthesiologists. However, I cannot agree with some of the sixteen advantages listed for local infiltrations and pudendal block, having seen convulsions following pudendal block from overdose of procaine, a maternal death from aspiration of vomitus in a fully conscious patient, and severely asphyxiated infants occurring in three or four deliveries out of each hundred under this type of anesthesia. The only three possible drawbacks are listed as broken needle, intravenous injection and idiosyncrasy.

The recommendation that it is inadvisable to rely on a mixture of a narcotic and its antagonist is good.

In discussion of immediate care of the child, it is recommended that all babies be given the maximum of placental blood. This advice is seriously open to question, especially in premature infants. The only mention of ventilation or resuscitation is in the chapter on pathology of the newborn, in which pneumothorax is discussed.

The chapter on "Physiology and Biochemistry of the Placenta" by Dr. Ernest W. Page is up-to-date and well documented. Dr. Clement A. Smith's book, "The Physiology of the Newborn Infant," Third Edition, provides the contents of the chapter on that subject.

Interested medical students should be encouraged to consult the current literature so as to follow the fast-moving subsequent developments in the perinatal field.

VIRGINIA APGAR, M.D.

**Fluid Balance in Obstetrics. A Critical Review.** BY PHILIP RHODES, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. (ENG.), M.R.C.O.G., Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to St. Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth Hospital and the General Lying-in Hospital, London and Horsham Hospital. Cloth. \$5.75. Pp. 165, with 12 tables and 5 appendices.

Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. Distributed by the Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois St., Chicago, 1960.

This is a scholarly, well-documented monograph and is written in simple easily understandable language by one of the leading British obstetricians. It covers most of the practical and many of the theoretical aspects of fluid and electrolyte balance in normal and abnormal obstetrics. The book starts out with a discussion of the basic physical and physico-chemical background of fluid and electrolyte balance. It then surveys fluid and electrolyte balance of the non-pregnant woman, and that of the woman during normal pregnancy. Following this is a discussion of the water and salt depletion syndrome encountered in pregnancy, and some special problems of fluid and electrolyte equilibrium encountered in pregnancy complicated by various pathological processes. Hemorrhages and acute adrenocortical insufficiency encountered in obstetrics are also reviewed. The book concludes with consideration of fluid and electrolyte changes occurring during normal and prolonged labor, Caesarean section and the puerperium. There are many useful tables in this little book. The excellent bibliography offers a good starting point for those who would like to delve further into the problems discussed. This monograph should make a useful addendum to the library of those interested in obstetrics and obstetrical anesthesia.

FRANCIS F. FOLDES, M.D.

**Management of the Patient with Headache.**

BY PERRY S. MACNEAL, M.D., F.A.C.P., Physician to Pennsylvania Hospital and Benjamin Franklin Clinic, Philadelphia; Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Jefferson Medical College; BERNARD J. ALPERS, M.D., Sc.D. (MED.), F.A.C.P., Professor and Head of the Department of Neurology, Jefferson Medical College, AND WILLIAM R. O'BRIEN, M.D., F.A.P.A., Psychiatrist and Head of the Department of Psychiatry, Pennsylvania Hospital; Instructor in Psychiatry, Jefferson Medical College. Cloth. \$3.50. Pp. 145, with no illustrations. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1957.

This monograph concerns itself chiefly with headache induced by medical diseases. It is an excellent review of the various forms of headache and their management. Migraine is especially well treated. There is nothing of particular interest to anesthesiologists. Post-spinal headache is mentioned in one or two lines.

VINCENT J. COLLINS, M.D.

**The Effect of Pharmacologic Agents on the Nervous System.** Proceedings of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. Volume 37. By forty authors. EDITED BY FRANCIS J. BRACELAND, M.D. Cloth. \$13.50. Pp. 488, with 38 tables, 102 figures and 53 structural formulas. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1959.

This book contains the Proceedings of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease at their meeting in December, 1957. The editor is Dr. F. J. Braceland, who is president of the Association. It includes 26 chapters by separate authors, with the discussions that took place when these papers were presented.

The early chapters stress the therapeutic aspects of treatment with drugs including the effects of antibiotics, of specific immunological agents, and of antibodies and vaccines. Mechanism of action of anticonvulsants is considered, along with the effect of carbon dioxide when it is involved. This is followed by an evaluation of drugs used clinically in neuromuscular disorders, especially parkinsonism. Difficulties in accurate testing of drug effects on animals and man occupy two chapters. The positive effect of the placebo reaction is presented. An excellent chapter describes the metabolic and chemical effects of diseases of the nervous system. Activity of steroid and thyroid hormones is related to central nervous system activity. Pharmacological and clinical effects of stimulants and tranquilizers are thoroughly treated. The probable mechanisms of action of dimethylaminoethanol, reserpine, the phenothiazines and iproniazid are discussed at length. A chapter by Lasagna makes a plea for objective evaluation of the action of sedatives and states, "We do not understand the mode of

action of these compounds." Wikler's chapter discusses the mode of action of narcotics, and points out the problem of "relapse after cure." Himwich offers a classification of stimulants based on their influence on the electrical activity of the brain. Abgood writes concerning biochemical abnormalities in schizophrenics which have been claimed to be related to the disease process. There is also a chapter which deals specifically with the position of taraxein in schizophrenia.

This book is quite acceptable as to binding, type of paper, and ease of reading. The figures are distinct. References and index are adequate. The authors write well, and their style is easier to read than most books with numerous authors, and each makes his own points succinctly.

Anesthesiologists, pharmacologists, psychiatrists, and general practitioners will be interested in the material presented.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.

**A Primer of Water, Electrolyte and Acid-Base Syndromes.** BY EMANUEL GOLDBERGER, M.D., F.A.C.P., Lecturer in Medicine, Columbia University, New York City. Cloth. \$6.00. Pp. 322, with 19 tables and 19 illustrations. Published by Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1959.

This elementary book was written by a lecturer in medicine at Columbia University, whose previous work has been mainly in the field of cardiology. His approach to the subject is that of a clinician who wishes to clarify and simplify a difficult subject.

The book is divided into sections which describe the normal water and electrolyte balance of the body, disturbances of water balance, and disturbances of salt balance. The largest section is devoted to acid-base balance, with detailed descriptions of the changes which occur in respiratory and metabolic acidosis and alkalosis. Small chapters are also devoted to the changes which occur with kidney disease, diabetes, aldosteronism, burns, salicylate poisoning, and alterations of potassium, calcium, magnesium and phosphate levels. The last section discusses principles of fluid therapy for surgical patients and children.

The author is successful in his attempt to