

sacrifice of detailed bibliography, an omission of discussions of differences of action of compounds on species other than man and individual discussions of every drug used clinically. The author aims at a text essentially for the medical students and practitioner.

The sections and chapters conform to the usual arrangement. Section III, psychopharmacology, is of especial current interest. There are chapters on: Amine Metabolism and the Nervous System; Tranquilizing Drugs; and Psychomotor Stimulants and Psychotomimetic Drugs. Section V, Anesthesia, contains some rather simplified definitions. The divisions of degrees of depression during anesthesia often would be difficult to determine clinically and appear over-simplified. The inclusion of atropine as an incomplete anesthetic drug, as well as the muscle relaxants, which have no actual anesthetic properties, are points of note. The latter fit the author's pharmacological objective of muscular relaxation, but this without depression of the sensorium or of pain is *not* anesthesia! The chart of phases of anesthesia (fig. 2B) is realistic in its inclusion of factors in the preanesthetic and postanesthetic periods.

The text, for a first edition is remarkably free of typographical and factual errors. A few fundamental and important errors do occur: the meta-hydroxy group is omitted on the formula of phenylephrine (page 77) after a basic discussion of the structure activity relationship of the catechol amines. An appendix, New Approaches to Therapy, discusses the pharmacological approach to atherosclerosis.

The basic presentation of the mechanism of pharmacological action of each family of drugs, followed by only the important clinical differences of various drugs in each family, keeps this text to a minimum size for maximum usefulness. It should be welcomed by anesthesiologists for quick reference and an understanding of the basic mechanism of action of each family of drugs.

O. SIDNEY ORTH, M.D.

Histopathologic Effects of Local Anesthetic Drugs and Related Substances. By PHILIP PIZZOLATO, M.D., Assistant Chief, Laboratory Service, Veterans Administration Hospital, Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology, Louisiana State University, School of

Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana, AND WALTER MANNHEIMER, M.D., Chief of Anesthesiology, Veterans Association Hospital, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. Cloth. \$5.50. Pp. 100, with 42 figures and 1 table. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1961.

The authors give a summary of previous efforts in this field including their own recent critical work. This provides a stimulating concept of what conditions one may expect to produce in tissues by the injection of local anesthetic drugs, both short-acting, such as the presently commonly used agents, and long-acting, such as quinine, antihistaminic agents, ethanol and phenol. Short descriptions are given of six methods of evaluating conditions of tissues following injections. Results are depicted in 41 excellent full-page, enlarged black and white photographs of tissue sections.

This small volume is bound with hard covers, has substantial paper and easily legible print. The bibliography of 97 references affords a good introduction to this field. The authors present their material concisely and effectively. The information will be of interest to all those concerned with the histopathology of tissues injected with local anesthetic agents.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.

Cerebral Anoxia and the Electroencephalogram. EDITED BY HENRI CASTAUT, M.D., Professor and Director, Laboratories of Neurobiology, Faculté de Médecine, Institut National d'Hygiène, Marseilles, France, AND JOHN STIRLING MEYER, B.S., M.Sc., M.D., C.M., Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurology, Wayne State University College of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan. Cloth. \$24.50. Pp. 617, with numerous plates, charts and tables. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois 1961.

Most anesthesiologists would designate anoxia as the major hazard in our practice. This book is a record of the Colloquium held in Marseilles by the Réunion Européenne d'Information Electroencéphalographique in 1959. The meeting was concerned with clinical neurophysiological, neuropathological and electroencephalographic studies of acute cerebral

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