

Halothane (Fluothane). By C. RONALD STEPHEN, B.Sc., M.D., C.M., Professor of Anesthesia, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina, AND DAVID M. LITTLE, JR., M.D., Department of Anesthesiology, Hartford Hospital, Hartford, Connecticut. Cloth. \$6.00. Pp. 142, with 14 figures and 5 tables. Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 1961.

The authors of this monograph summarize what has been learned about halothane in the five years it has been available. They describe the physical and chemical properties of the compound and its pharmacology with respect to effects on respiratory, cardiovascular and central nervous systems, as well as the liver and other organs. They give a description of different methods available for clinical administration, and suggest the types of cases in which it may be used. A discussion of reported complications is also presented. A chapter on the method of use of the drug in British practice is included. The table on page 8 gives the vapor pressure of nitrous oxide at 20° as 49 mm. of mercury, but generally errors are few and negligible. The authors state that halogens tend to increase the potency of anesthetic agents, and then on page 50 intimate that there is some mystery about the effect of halothane as compared to the effect of other halogenated hydrocarbons. Actually, fluorine tends to diminish anesthetic potency. It is suggested on page 69 that the advent of halothane was followed by a major contribution in development of vaporization of anesthetic drugs. The 'copper kettle' was developed by Dr. Lucien Morris for use of chloroform before halothane be-

came available. The physical characteristics of the book, such as cover and size of print, are quite satisfactory. The material is well and clearly presented and can be recommended to anyone wanting to become acquainted with this drug.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.

Anesthesia Abstracts, Volume 57. By JOHN S. LUNDY, A.B., D.Sc., LL.D., M.D., Associate Professor, Northwestern University Medical School and Consultant to Veteran's Administration, Chicago, Illinois, AND FLORENCE A. MCQUILLEN, C.R.N.A., Executive Director of American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Fabricord. \$4.00. Pp. 216. Burgess Publishing Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1961.

Doctor Lundy and Miss McQuillen have acquired facility in preparing "Anesthesia Abstracts" over the years by the technique of extracting direct quotes which tend to convey the main idea of the article. In many circumstances this form of abstracting can be useful to the busy anesthesiologist interested in scanning some current literature. However, this is not a complete literature review since many important publications dealing with other aspects of medicine are not included. For those who do not have the opportunity to "thumb through" current journals in a well stocked library, "Anesthesia Abstracts" represents a method by which important articles for further study can be discovered. Very important to the use of this publication is the subject index which appears to be quite complete.

D. W. EASTWOOD, M.D.