

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

Anesthesia for the Injured. By L. J. WOLFSON, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S., Consultant Anesthetist, Birmingham Accident Hospital. Cloth. \$4.00. Pp. 110, with 15 illustrations. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1962.

The author writes from experience in the organization and functioning of the anesthesia department of the Birmingham Accident Hospital, an institution created 20 years ago to study in detail the surgical, medical and pathological aspects of trauma. He demonstrates that the anesthetist can usefully become a fully integrated member of the team treating injured patients, not only in operating rooms, but also in the management of respiratory and circulatory problems, resuscitation, relief of pain, and a number of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. The book deals comprehensively with the subject of trauma from the standpoint of the anesthetist. Of particular interest is a chapter devoted to physical signs of traumatic shock, and to differential diagnosis, largely based on the research which has been conducted at the Birmingham Accident Hospital. The author includes interesting and helpful discussions on anesthesia in traumatic and operative shock. One chapter is devoted to the problem of the full stomach. All but one chapter has a list of references appended, but the author does not seem to have consulted important comprehensive books and monographs on shock and trauma published since World War II. Despite this fact, this is a unique book based on extensive experience in an important research center, and the information should be of value to anesthesiologists.

RICHARD FOREGGER, M.D.

Moderne Narkose. Theorie und Praxis der Routineverfahren. By DR. MED. HABIL. LOTHAR BARTH, Chief of the Anesthesia Department, AND DR. MED. MANFRED MEYER, Assistant Chief of the Anesthesia Department, Robert-Rössle-Klinik, Berlin,

Germany. With a preface by William W. Mushin, Professor of Anesthetics, Welsh National School of Medicine, University of Wales. Cloth. \$13.40. Pp. 428, with 306 illustrations. VEB Gustav Fischer Verlag, Jena, Germany, 1962.

The instigation for writing this basic text is obviously the lack of such a book in German medical literature. The authors have compiled a vast amount of knowledge of predominantly Anglo-American origin and their own experiences with different types of anesthesia in England and Germany. Very commendable is the approach of integrating questions of physics, chemistry, pharmacology, and physiology which are intimately associated with anesthetic techniques. These different fields are discussed in each of the exceptionally well-illustrated chapters. Theoretical and practical aspects alternate rapidly throughout the text. The excellent presentation of a chapter on respiration and problems involving the use of the Carlens tube merits attention.

Although this book shows almost no typographical errors, a minor contradiction such as "barbiturates produce analgesia" appears on page 51 and the reverse of this statement on page 114. A radical opinion in reference to administration of muscle relaxants which are supposedly not warranted without endotracheal intubation will be challenged by many.

It is safer to encourage the writing of specific dosages of drugs in milligrams if the amount is small. (Example: Not 0.0005 Gm., but instead 0.5 mg.) No mention is made of the recently-advocated anesthetic combination of nitrous oxide, barbiturate, and intravenous local anesthetic. The so-called "awake" intubation and treatment of aspiration pneumonia should be discussed.

The "Teutonization" of typical English expressions does not enhance the intelligibility of the text to the German reader. (Example: Dekonnection, Relaxient, Kolumne, Sequena, Insulte, Kompletieren.)

The great number of references at the end of each chapter invites the interested reader to more detailed pursuit of the subject. This text will be greatly welcomed by German-reading physicians who are interested in anesthesia.

PAUL R. DUMKE, M.D.

DR. NIELS R. WAEHNELDT

Modern Trends in Anaesthesia. Aspects of Hydrogen Ion Regulation and Biochemistry in Anaesthesia. EDITED BY: FRANKIS T. EVANS, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., F.F.A.-R.C.S., Senior Consultant Anaesthetist, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, St. Mark's Hospital for Diseases of the Rectum, and Royal Masonic Hospital, London; AND T. CECIL GRAY, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S., Hon. F.F.A.R.-A.C.S. Prof. of Anaesthesia, University of Liverpool. Cloth. \$11.50. Pp. 219, with 35 figures and 15 tables. Butterworth Inc., Washington, D. C., 1962.

The editors of this volume are two of the best-known anaesthetists in England. Each volume of *Modern Trends* covers a single type of material pertaining to current thoughts in anesthesia. The present volume consists of eight chapters, written by specialists in biochemistry concerned with modern anesthesia.

The first chapter, by J. F. Nunn, is perhaps the one which will be of greatest general interest. It brings to date the theoretical considerations and practical methods of measuring respiratory and metabolic acid-base levels. The concept of alkali reserve is given a proper burial. Present methods of determination of pH and P_{CO_2} are discussed with adequate elaboration by Woolmer in chapter 2. Physiological and biochemical effects of excess carbon dioxide and of hyperventilation are considered in the next two chapters, including thorough evaluations. Chapters 5 and 6 deal with acid-base effects of hypothermia and of cardiac bypass, including world-wide results generally obtained up to 1962. Geddes presents fundamental information on adrenocortical mechanisms in chapter 7. A short discussion of intravenous alimentation is followed by comments on biochemistry of massive

blood loss—and replacement. Facts concerning true and pseudo cholinesterases are presented in the last chapter. Mention is made of theories of action, but the reading is straight forward without inundating one with unproven possibilities.

All the styles of writing are easy to read. There is no repetition such as frequently accompanies books consisting of chapters by numerous authors. Any anesthesiologist who professes to have a thorough knowledge of his field of endeavor must be acquainted with the concept offered in this volume.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.

Hypothermia in Surgical Practice. BY KEITH COOPER, M.Sc., M.B., B.S., Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, AND D. N. ROSS, B.Sc., M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S., Consultant Thoracic Surgeon, Guy's Hospital, London. Cloth. \$4.50. Pp. 116, with 40 figures. F. A. Davis Co., Philadelphia, 1960.

This book, published in 1960, gives a rather complete picture of the use of hypothermia at that time. As stated in their preface, "Our knowledge of the basic physiological consequences of body cooling is far from complete, and there is still some divergence of view on the practical details of techniques used to achieve hypothermia. In the following chapters an attempt has been made to summarize the various aspects of the basic physiology of hypothermia, . . . and then to outline the various techniques used to cool the body." The authors have done just that, accurately and with clear delineation.

In 1960 Drew's method for cooling to deep hypothermic temperatures was new. It is mentioned several times. Experience has lessened early enthusiasm in favor of other methods.

The basic physiology and pharmacology are the same now as when the book was published. The fundamentals of hypothermia are well outlined in this volume. One entering the field must obviously learn elsewhere of technical developments since 1960.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.