

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

L'Intubation Intra-Trachéale. By JEAN THURÈS, Le Médecin-Commandant anesthésiologiste des Hôpitaux Militaires, France. Paper. 28 Francs. Pp. 119, with 63 figures. Librairie Arnette, 2, rue Casimir-Delavigne, Paris, 1964.

Written in French, this simple primer is a technical manual that describes the equipment and procedures commonly used in the performance of endotracheal intubation. By the use of ample line drawings for illustration, the text has been kept concise and fundamental. It briefly reviews anatomy, dwells mostly on technique, and concludes with short discussions of the complications and advantages of endotracheal anesthesia, and indications for the method. The student beginning anesthesia will find this manual to be understandable and informative.

JOHN R. LINCOLN, M.D.

Absorption and Distribution of Drugs. EDITED BY T. B. BINNS, M.R.C.P., M.R.C.P.Ed., D.C.H., Glaxo Laboratories, Greenford, Middlesex. Department of Medicine, West London Hospital. Cloth. \$7.50. Pp. 270, with illustrations. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1964.

This book is based on a symposium held in London in 1963 by the Association of Medical Advisers in the Pharmaceutical Industry. As the title implies, the intent of the participants was to review current concepts of drug absorption and distribution and the effects thereon of physico-chemical properties, organ systems, plasma proteins and pharmaceutical manipulation. Individual chapters are concerned with drugs of specific action such as steroids, salicylates, haematinics and anti-hypertensives. There are no chapters relating to drugs of special interest to the anesthetist. Of value to him, however, are the sections on physico-chemical factors in drug absorption by Dr. Bernard Brodie, the sections on placental barrier and blood-brain barrier, and one concerned with influences of plasma proteins on drug absorption and activity. A welcome feature of the book is the inclusion at the beginning of each chapter of an abstract of material reviewed in that chapter.

Individuals not specifically trained in pharmacologic methods but who are investigating the activity of drugs should be required to read Dr.

Brodie's final chapter describing the difficulties associated with applying to man that data acquired from animals. All physicians would receive benefit from portions of this book.

ROBERT T. PATRICK, M.D.

The Motor Endplate. By SUMNER I. ZACKS, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Cloth. \$17.00. Pp. 321, with 96 figures. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia and London, 1964.

For all who enjoy revelation of new findings and answers to intriguing questions, *The Motor Endplate* provides a fascinating account. The author has ably gathered together the work of many anatomists, physiologists, biochemists and clinical scientists. In this age of molecular medicine, they have found a common meeting ground in *The Motor Endplate*. This book amply and pleasantly rewards the anesthesiologist who is greatly concerned with muscle physiology and relaxants and with better understanding of the mode of action of drugs.

The known details of ultramicroscopic and neuromuscular junction are presented in a concise, lucid manner. Many of the past controversies are carefully presented including pertinent available evidence. The clarity of this presentation enables the reader to arrive at a clear conclusion. The author does not introduce his own personal opinions. Only with respect to myasthenia gravis do the author's personal concepts become evident, but through this device the reader is challenged. Indeed, the extensive and excellent investigations of the author and his father are so clearly and fascinatingly presented that they have a flavor of objectivity.

There are seven well-illustrated chapters. The chapters on "Fine Structure of the Motor Endplates" and "The Physiology of the Motor Endplate," are especially well presented and are commended to all. "Motor Endplate Pathology" begins with a clear and clinically useful classification of diseases of the motor unit. The portion dealing with primary diseases of the endplate is superb and adds to every physician's knowledge.

Presentation of the chapters with several main bold face headings and frequent sub-topics, helps the reader to retain the organized body of informa-