

Books written by several authors tend to be uneven and, in the present one, the range of inequality seems to be numerically related to the size of the cast which may well represent a record. Some chapters are excellent, giving the concrete and precise information needed by the pharmacologist and the clinical investigator. Too many others, however, deal in vague generalities and do not even supply the pertinent references to the appropriate techniques. There is, in general, very little critical evaluation of the methods. One would think that, in a work like this, the editors should have been allowed to exercise their discretion to assure more uniform standards and stricter adherence to the aims of the book. Editorial comments appended to some of the chapters do not fulfill this purpose.

There are very few complete omissions. Among these, anesthesiologists will miss a chapter on pharmacological evaluation of local anesthetics. The subject index which should be a vital part of any reference book is woefully inadequate.

Although the book falls somewhat short of its objectives, one must consider that it represents a pioneering effort. Since it is the only book of its kind at present, it will be a useful source of information for workers engaged or interested in drug testing.

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Dringliche Handchirurgie (Emergency Surgery of the Hand). By Prof Dr. med Erik Moberg, Sahlgrenska Sjukhuset, Göteborg, Sweden. With a Foreword by Priv.-Doz. Dr. F. W. Rathke, Ludwigsburg, Germany. Paper. DM 7.80 (about \$2). Pp. 70, with 38 illustrations. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany, 1964.

This small booklet is primarily intended for residents in orthopedic surgery and presents only a few pages of interest to anesthesiologists. It is gratifying to note the author's warning of the dangers of digital nerve blocks. He also cautions against local infiltration of anesthetic solutions into traumatized tissues. Median nerve block at the wrist and ulnar nerve block at the elbow are preferred and cursorily described. Brachial plexus block is described according to the old Kulenkampff method. The axillary approach to the brachial plexus as described by Adriani and, later, by de Jong and other authors, is not mentioned. An interesting point in favor of nerve blocks over general anesthesia which, heretofore, has received little attention is the inhibition of sweating produced by nerve blocks. Pathogenic microorganisms that may lie dormant within the glandular lumen may be "secreted" to the surface and contribute to contamination of the operative field. Inhibition of sweating along the blocked area will promote sterility. Based on the same principle—sympathetic nerve block associated with either conduction anesthesia or nerve injury—the loss of

sweating serves as an objective sign of loss of tactile function. The ninhydrin test for aminoacids in sweat of finger prints is described in detail and found to be of greater informative value than pin prick or two-point discrimination test.

It is a pleasure to read this clean little book; the text is clear and concise; quality of print, paper and illustrations is excellent. Literature references are omitted since a bibliography would be out of place in a pocket book of this sort.

W. H. MANNHEIMER, M.D.

Hypnosis in Anesthesiology. EDITED BY JEAN LASSNER, M.D. Paper. DM 8.50. Pp. 51. Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Göttingen-Heidelberg, 1964.

This is a record of an International Symposium held at the First European Congress of Anesthesiology of the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists. The Chairman of the Symposium, Jean Lassner, M.D., and 15 panelists discuss the nature of hypnosis, doctor-patient relationships, indications, combinations with drugs, some clinical aspects and dangers. While the interchanges between these practitioners of the art of hypnosis, unsubstantiated in this publication by experimental results or references, may be useful to those particularly interested in this field, most anesthesiologists will not find them useful. Particularly lucid and to the point, however, are comments by Milton Marmor.

D. W. EASTWOOD, M.D.

Narcotics and Narcotic Antagonists. CHEMISTRY, PHARMACOLOGY, AND APPLICATION IN ANESTHESIOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS. BY FRANCIS F. FOLDES, M.D., Chief, Division of Anesthesiology, Montefiore Hospital, New York City; MARK SWERDLOW, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S., Consultant Anaesthetist, Salford Royal Hospital, Manchester, England, and EPHRAIM S. SIKER, M.D., Director, Department of Anesthesiology, Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh. Cloth. Pp. 425, with 39 illustrations. Publication No. 598 American Lecture Series. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1964.

The authors of this reference book have had many years of experience in the use of narcotics, narcotic antagonists, and related compounds in the practice of anesthesia and obstetrics. They have been highly successful in summarizing, both from their own experiences and from an extensive (1,575 items) reference list, the pertinent information needed by the practicing anesthetist or obstetrician, the general practitioner, and other specialists—all of whom must manage pain or acute narcotic intoxication. An extensive glossary of terms should prove helpful to many.

The book is divided into basic and clinical sections. In the former the chemistry and pharmacology of narcotics are described, and there are chap-