

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

Anesthetic Techniques for Obstetrical Anesthesia and Analgesia. BY DANIEL C. MOORE, M.D., Director, Department of Anesthesiology, The Mason Clinic, Seattle, Washington. Cloth. \$10.50. Pp. 211, with 74 illustrations and 11 tables. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1964.

This book lives up to the promise implied in its title and deals almost exclusively with techniques for obstetrical analgesia and anesthesia; and, perhaps because of the author's special interest, it deals even more specifically (almost half of the book) with techniques of regional analgesia as they are applied in obstetrics. It is little concerned with pathophysiology of the pregnant woman, her labor, or the subsequent delivery. It does not discuss use of drugs or medications for relief of pain and/or production of amnesia during the first stage of labor, since these are not considered the province of most anesthetists and anesthesiologists. It also does not include the production of anesthesia by administration of drugs by rectum, by mouth, or by intramuscular injection, on the basis that these methods lack the controllability necessary in obstetrical anesthesia. The result is a small volume in which emphasis throughout is on technical aspects of anesthetic administration to the parturient; and, although the material is presented clearly and concisely, it is obviously addressed to the beginner.

The text is divided into four parts. The first of these reviews general problems of concern prior to anesthesia and delivery, during anesthesia, and following anesthesia, and factors influencing the selection of method of anesthesia. The second section is devoted to general anesthesia, and considers inhalation anesthetic agents, intravenous barbiturates, and muscle relaxant drugs from the points of view of advantages, disadvantages, contraindications, and techniques of administration. The third part is devoted to regional block techniques employed in obstetrics, including local infiltrations, paravertebral block, presacral block, paracervical block, pudendal block, spinal analgesia, and caudal and lumbar epidural block. The final section, a single chapter, reviews briefly

the various measures employed in resuscitation of the newborn.

The style of writing and the format are similar to the author's previous text on regional block and each chapter is a complete unit, so that there is necessarily repetition. The illustrations are well chosen, well executed, and add considerably to the text. An up-to-date list of references is included at the end of each chapter, and there is a detailed index.

This introductory manual is clearly not intended for anesthesiologists, but rather for obstetricians, obstetrical residents, occasional anesthetists, residents in anesthesiology, or nurse anesthetists.

DAVID M. LITTLE, JR., M.D.

Septic Shock, Experimental and Clinical Studies.

BY HIROSHI HAYASAKA, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery, Sapporo Medical College, Sapporo, Japan, AND JOHN M. HOWARD, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia. Cloth. \$5.00. Pp. 86, with 6 figures. Charles C Thomas, publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1964.

The authors have summarized and commented on material contained in almost 200 published papers. This covers experiments and observations almost entirely on small animals (mice, cats, rabbits, dogs), although there are some observations on human patients. The purpose of the monograph is to present "an incomplete yet factual review of clinical and experimental observations as a foundation for future clinical investigation." This it does extremely well. They also state that the greatest hiatus in our present day knowledge of septic shock is the fact that only a few investigators have been using living bacteria, and fewer still have studied carefully the circulatory changes in septic shock in patients. Many of the reported studies are from the work of Doctors Wesley W. Spink, Jacob Fine, Lewis Thomas and their colleagues. The bibliography is adequate.

The book is divided into three sections: (1) The effects of endotoxin on the circulation, (2)