

illustrations. Price \$9.00. English editions by Oliver and Boyd Ltd., Great Britain, and J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1964.

This book will serve principally as a procedure manual for performing local and regional nerve blocks in horses, cattle and dogs. It consists of two parts, the first of which deals with principles of local anesthesia. Types of nerve block, indications and contraindications, mechanisms of action (including an account of pain perception), physical and chemical properties, potency and toxicity of a variety of drugs, and a description of the instruments, needles and syringes, are presented. The English-speaking student of anesthesia will not derive much benefit from this section because the material is not up-to-date, and the explanations of mechanisms of action are superficial and confused. One wonders whether something was lost in the translation.

The second part is devoted to the techniques of local anesthesia for three species in particular, horses, cattle and dogs. Other animals and their parts are presented where appropriate, e.g., the horn of the goat, spinal anesthesia, and anesthesia for castration of the pig. This section is well done. The descriptions of landmarks and techniques are complete and well illustrated. Anesthesia of the head, limbs and organs of procreation are thoroughly covered, as are paravertebral, epidural, subdural and sympathetic blocking techniques. An appendix includes legislation pertinent to veterinary and experimental surgical practices and lists of the many names, both English and German, assigned to the more commonly used local anesthetics.

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International Anesthesiology Clinics. Vol. 2, No. 3, May 1964. *Peridural Anesthesia*, EDITED BY P. G. LUND, M.D., F.A.C.A., Director Department of Anesthesiology, Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital, Johnstown, Pa.; and *The Airway and Larynx*, EDITED BY LEROY W. KRUMPERMAN, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology, Temple University School of Medicine and Hospital, Philadelphia. Cloth. \$22.00 per year. Pp. 729, with illustrations. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1964.

The section on *Peridural Anesthesia* was compiled by seven authors from six different countries, all authorities in this field. Except that this subject was excellently covered by Dogliotti many years ago, little else can be compared to this new and extensive coverage of the field, which is dealt with in a quite basic fashion. Two criticisms might be made of the chapter by J. Alfred Lee. If no vein can be entered, no procedure should be done and in the present status of the "cut down" there should be no such situation. Also he makes the comment that the blood pressure should be maintained at least at 60 mm. Hg systolic. Hanley states that any pressure below 80 mm. should

be considered a sign of hypovolemia and either fluid or blood should bring the volume back to normal.

The second section which deals with *The Airway and Larynx* has at least gotten together material usually found in various textbooks on anesthesiology, respiratory physiology and anatomy. There are eight authors, all from Temple University. This section appears above criticism. The prospective Board candidate might tremble at the formulas he would need to learn for calculating the dead space.

Since these basic reviews of two important subjects are compiled by numerous authors, the presentations vary considerably in format, but are all clear and reliable and contain well-documented and extensive references.

ALICE MCNEAL, M.D.

Clinical Anesthesia. Vol. 2, 1964—Instrumentation and Anesthesia. EDITED BY WILLIAM H. L. DORNETTE, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Memphis, Tennessee. Cloth. \$7.50. Pp. 198, with illustrations. F. A. Davis Co., Philadelphia, 1964.

This latest volume in the *Clinical Anesthesia* series differs from its predecessors in that it is designed to serve as a reference text for the student and the practicing anesthesiologist alike. Its twelve contributors, noted for their interest in instrumentation, set out to lead us through the maze of available monitoring instruments so that we may understand their usefulness and their limitations, and so that we may understand what takes place inside the "black box" interposed between the patient and the gauges, screens and graphs we employ to tell us about his condition. They succeed admirably.

Of the book's eleven chapters, seven contain the "meat," while the remaining four are philosophical in nature. Dealt with in the didactic chapters are manometry, respiratory carbon dioxide and gas flow measurements, electroencephalography, thermometry, blood volume techniques and instrumentation, and applications of gas chromatography in anesthesia. Coverage of these subjects is excellent and well written with liberal use of photographs and line drawings to illustrate the text. A glossary is also provided. Available equipment with its application, limitations, maintenance problems, and in some cases, prices are discussed. Bibliographies accompany each of these chapters.

No less interesting are the chapters which wax philosophic. Characteristics of simple and complex monitors are discussed with a plea for reason and consideration of the patient's safety in their use. A description of a hospital-engineered central monitoring system with its attendant economies should please administrators as well as anesthesiologists. Finally, a glimpse into the future of