

Editorial Views

New Drugs

THE PUBLICATION in July 1965 of the first volume *New Drugs* by the American Medical Association marked a departure from tradition and a novel approach to the dissemination of information on drugs to the practicing physician. *New Drugs* is an outgrowth of the previous publication by the Council on Drugs, New and Non-Official Drugs (N.N.D.). This volume, published annually, was originally known as New and Non-Official Remedies (N.N.R.). N.N.R. listed the drugs which were too new to be included in the U.S.P. but had been used for a sufficient time to have gained (some) acceptance as therapeutic agents. However, the number of physicians who referred to N.N.D. was disappointingly small. It was obvious to the members of the Council that a more effective means of dissemination of knowledge concerning drugs was necessary.

Instead of the conventional pharmacological classification, *New Drugs* groups the drugs according to therapeutic actions and uses. The groups are at first presented in a general way, with emphasis on the practical aspects of use and the adverse reactions that have been encountered. Individual drugs introduced within the past 10 years are described in detailed monographs. The material is gathered and edited by the staff of the Council on Drugs, with the help of numerous consultants and members of the Council. The volume bridges a gap in drug information by supplying an unbiased authoritative summary of data pres-

ently scattered in the current literature, not yet present in standard textbooks and therefore not readily accessible to the busy practitioner.

Were the practice of Anesthesiology limited to the use of anesthetics alone, *New Drugs* would be of little interest to those practicing the specialty. The data on these drugs are limited and not sufficiently detailed for the anesthesiologist. However, these drugs occupy only a small portion of the volume. Anesthesiology encompasses the use of many adjuvant drugs. In addition, the anesthesiologist encounters many drugs prescribed by surgeons and internists for patients to whom he administers anesthetics. The anesthesiologist will find the general description of these classes of drugs sufficiently complete for his purposes. The 1966 revision was released in June.

In view of the novelty of the idea, the members of the Council on Drugs and the Staff of the Department of Drugs of the American Medical Association are anxious to have suggestions and criticisms which will lead to an improvement over these first efforts. The undersigned will gladly forward these comments if addressed to him, to the Council on Drugs of the American Medical Association.

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