

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by HUBERTA M. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

A Primer of Peripheral Vascular Disease. BY TRAVIS WINSON, M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, AND CHESTER HYMAN, Ph.D., Professor of Medicine and Physiology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Cloth. \$12.50. Pp. 348, with 132 illustrations. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1965.

For anesthesiologists who are engaged in therapeutic and diagnostic nerve blocking, this book is highly recommended. The subject of peripheral vascular diseases is handled in a simple and lucid manner. The content ranges from the basic physiological factors through the various types of diagnostic procedures, as well as a description of the major vascular problems. Therapy at best, of course, is limited; that which is currently acceptable is well presented.

Particular chapters which should be commended to the reader are those related to the regulation of vascular smooth muscle tone, physical concepts relating to the flow of fluid in vessels, and the morphology of peripheral blood vessels. The current concepts regarding the coagulation of blood are quite simple and are factually presented.

Among the diseases discussed, both thromboangitis obliterans and localized arteritis and collagen problems are noteworthy. The anesthesiologist will benefit a great deal by perusal of the chapter on neurovascular syndromes and post-traumatic dystrophies.

The style of the authors is crisp and quite readable. The avoidance of long complex sentences is especially noteworthy. The book, furthermore, is profusely illustrated. The methods of treatment are up-to-date in so far as the general medical management is concerned. There is a paucity of both theoretic consideration and practical application of therapeutic nerve blocking. However, this might well be expected since the basic objective of the authors is to present the disease entities.

The primer is to be considered a book worthy of a place in the anesthesiologist's library for both reference and specific use.

VINCENT J. COLLINS, M.D.

Heart Disease in Children. Diagnosis and Treatment. BY BENJAMIN M. GASUL, M.D., Late Professor of Pediatrics, Cook County Post Graduate School; RENÉ A. ARCILLA, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Chicago, AND MAURICE LEV, M.D., Director Congenital Heart Research & Training Center, Hektoen Institute for Medical Research, Chicago. Cloth. \$33.00. Pp. 1,363, with 546 illustrations. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and Toronto, 1966.

This most excellent volume of 1,332 pages plus 30 pages of index is comprehensive in its coverage of congenital heart disease. The first portion describes the anatomy, embryology and pathology of the normal heart and of congenital deformities.

Following the early basis, each chapter (there are 50) describes completely and elaborately for each type of congenital anomaly the following aspects of the disease: Pathology, Hemodynamic Considerations, Clinical Features, Roentgenology, ECG, Cardiac Catheterization, Angiography, Diagnosis and Differential Diagnosis, Treatment and Prognosis. Many figures and roentgenograms enable the authors to present exceptionally clear concepts.

The chapter on rheumatic fever uses the same leadings. Only 19 pages are devoted to treatment and prevention of rheumatic fever. The last two chapters contain about 50 pages dealing with general management of cardiac patients.

The book is a compendium of material on congenital cardiac disease. It could well serve as a text for graduate training in such a course, and is recommended to anyone for a basic knowledge of congenital cardiac disease.

The physical characteristics of this publication are good. The type is easily read and the lettering of illustrations is sufficiently large for ease of perusal. The style is consistently interesting throughout, in spite of there being 15 authors.

ROBERT W. VIRTUE, M.D.

Progress in Biochemical Pharmacology. VOL. 1. First International Symposium on Radiosensitizers and Radioprotective Drugs, Milan, 1964. EDITED BY R. PAOLETTI AND R. VERTUA. Cloth. \$28.50. Pp. 750, with 287 illustrations. Butterworth, Washington, D. C., 1965.

This symposium was organized by the European Society for Biochemical Pharmacology and its

opening address by Professor Chain introducing Professor Otto Warburg is followed by about 100 brief articles. These are all in English although the construction and phrasing often reflects various European backgrounds of the participants. Most European countries are represented with a few contributions from the United States. This widespread interest appears to originate jointly from laboratories interested in protection against the radiation damage of atomic weaponry and those primarily concerned in extending the capability range of radiation therapy. Basic mechanisms are explored from a multiplicity of theoretical possibilities. For instance, the effect of 5-bromodeoxyuridine in sensitizing mammalian cells to ionizing radiations is considered to be the result of its partial replacement of the thymine in cellular DNA; the question is then debated as to whether it increases the damage suffered by DNA or whether it inhibits repair systems. Another radiosensitizer, sodium cyclohexylsuccinate, now the subject of considerable European interest as a therapeutic adjuvant, is a conspicuous inhibitor of anaerobic glycolysis. Studies of radioprotection with cysteine, cysteamine and aminoethylisothiouremium (AET), the early representatives of this group, have been extended to a wide variety of chemically unrelated compounds. It remains, as generally recognized, that they have some moderate prophylactic value and very limited treatment value after irradiation damage. The versatility of such efforts presented in this book is profoundly impressive.

R. P. WALTON, M.D.

Physiological Pharmacology. A Comprehensive Treatise. Edited by WALTER S. ROOT AND FREDERICK C. HOFMANN, College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia University, New York. VOL. II, *The Nervous System—Part B, Central Nervous System Drugs.* Cloth. Pp. 486, with 66 figures and 17 tables. Academic Press, Inc., New York and London, 1965.

This is the second of the proposed ten volumes of a treatise that is to be "an authoritative account of the effect of drugs on physiological systems." It is not clear whether the adjective "physiological," also included in the title, represents a reaction against the increasingly biochemical or molecular tendency of pharmacology or if it connotes something that in Europe is called pharmacodynamics. Anyway, the authors of the various articles included in the volume do not seem to be hampered by any restriction, and deal with just plain pharmacology without omitting any of its multiple facets, without which this science would lose much of its attraction.

Most of the articles give good to excellent accounts of the present state of knowledge on such drug categories as the centrally acting muscle relaxants (less familiar to anesthesiologists than the muscle relaxants acting by neuromuscular block), anticonvulsants and the antitussive, emetic and antiemetic drugs. The article on "psychic energizers and anti-depressant drugs" is somewhat less satisfactory, probably because of the uncertain status of these drugs among psychopharmacological agents. One should also deplore the use of the name "psychic energizer" which sounds like an advertising slogan.

The last two articles show the eclecticism of the editors. One of them is a summary of all drug actions on the eye, from autonomic agents to antibiotics and from local anesthetics to anti-inflammatory steroids. It would be an excellent chapter in a textbook of ophthalmology, but in a pharmacological treatise it seems incongruous. In contrast to this highly practical point of view, the last article deals with the theoretical problem of synaptic transmission in the central nervous system which should be the very basis of neuropharmacology and psychopharmacology, if only we knew a little more about it.

In spite of the undeniable immediate usefulness of most of the articles published in this volume, one wonders whether the giant treatises, following the tradition of the old German "Handbücher," are compatible with the steadily accelerating turnover of scientific knowledge. How long will the articles in this volume remain comprehensive and authoritative?

GEORGES UNGAR, M.D., D.Sc.

Handbook of Physiology. SECTION 2: CIRCULATION, VOL. III. Section Editor: W. F. Hamilton and Philip Dow. Cloth. \$32.00. Pp. 2,765, with illustrations. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1965.

Over the years the publications of the American Physiological Society have been of tremendous value to students, teachers, investigators and physicians applying a knowledge of physiology to clinical problems. A recent project has been the preparation of the *Handbook of Physiology* which has as its purpose a critical and comprehensive presentation of physiological knowledge and concepts. Sections already have been or will be published on (1) Neurophysiology, (2) Circulation, (3) Respiration, (4) Adaptation to Environment, (5) Adipose Tissue, (6) Energy Metabolism in the Mammalian Cell, and (7) Physiology of the Alimentary Canal.

Under review here is Volume III of the Section on Circulation, containing a chapter on the cir-