

Pain. Henry Ford Hospital—International Symposium. EDITED BY ROBERT I. KNIGHTON, M.D., AND PAUL R. DUMKE, M.D. Pp. 587, with illustrations. Cloth. \$17.50. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1966.

This is truly an outstanding symposium. The editors are to be commended for the selection and organization of the material presented. The symposium is divided into six major topics, and contributors are well-recognized authorities in their fields. The book is printed on glossy paper with an easily-legible type face. The illustrations are reproduced clearly in a size that permits ready observation of pertinent points.

The first section, eight lectures on the anatomical substrata for pain perception, is of particular interest to anesthesiologists. Almost without exception the lecturers have moved away from the long-prevalent concept that pain is one of the specific sensations suggested in the Müllerian doctrine of modalities. Instead of concentrating on the type of sensory nerve ending, discussions are concerned mainly with what happens to the peripheral stimulus on its way to consciousness. These excellent lectures will be of great value to the student of pain who is confused and confounded by the apparent discrepancies in the story given by the patient with a bizarre symptom complex.

The second section consists of seven lectures dealing with parameters of pain and analgesia. It is concerned mainly with methods of testing analgesics in animals and in humans and with problems of narcotic dependency. A particularly noteworthy discussion on the control of pain is presented by Dr. Beecher, and an interesting lecture by Dr. Lim on peripherally-acting analgesics is recommended reading.

These two sections, comprising half of the symposium, furnish the anesthesiologist with the latest thinking on the mechanisms and treatment of pain. The last half of the book is devoted to four chapters on operative techniques for relief of pain, and are of interest primarily to the neurosurgeon. The contributors to this section write with the authority of experience, and their opinions about cordotomy, rhizotomy, and other operations for relief of pain are well worth studying. For the anesthesiologist, in this section of the book Dr. Todd has presented a method of anesthesia that permits some return of consciousness during such operations in order to test the patient for the placement of the surgical lesion, and Dr. Maher tells of his work with phenol in intraspinal block for pain and spasticity. His experience has been extensive, and his suggestions should elicit considerable interest among those who have tried his method or contemplate doing so.

This reviewer was very impressed by the quality of the discussions of various aspects of pain, and recommends the book to those of our specialty

who have more than a passing interest in the problems of the suffering patient.

FREDERICK P. HAUGEN, M.D.

Comprehensive Approach to Therapy of Pain. By A. LOUIS KOLODNY, M.D., AND PATRICK T. McLAUGHLIN, M.D. Pp. 145, with four illustrations. Cloth. \$6.50. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1966.

This small volume, written in a relatively non-technical style, has practical value for the physician treating patients who suffer pain of varying degrees. The authors concentrate on the problems of drug tolerance, habituation, and addiction, discussing a large number of drugs of the analgesic class, as well as many which are useful because of their adjunctive qualities. Their understanding of the emotional aspects of pain reveals their experience as clinicians. From the standpoint of accuracy one can disagree with the attempts to simplify the mechanisms of pain, but not with the overall practicality of the authors' explanations. The chapter on the development of analgesic drugs is particularly well done, and this reviewer was pleased with the very evident insight into psychological aspects of treatment demonstrated in the monograph. The chapters on drugs, dosages, and side effects are not of particular value to anesthesiologists, but may help the internist or general practitioner who wonders what else can be done by drugs to relieve a patient's complaints of pain. For them, it is a handy reference guide.

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Resuscitation of the Newborn Infant. EDITED BY HAROLD ABRAMSON, M.D. Second edition. Pp. 411, 26 illustrations. Cloth. \$16.50. C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, Missouri, 1966.

The first edition of "Resuscitation of the Newborn Infant" was and remains a standard to which medical texts should be happy to be compared. The second edition has maintained the format and the excellence of the first. It is authoritative and readable, describing in detail contributory factors in newborn depression and their prevention, the resultant pathology, and therapy of the conditions.

The chapter authors are leading authorities and their presentations are, in the main, concise and understandable. Although the illustrations are helpful and informative, perhaps a more liberal use could have been made of the instructive graphs from several of the authors' original publications.

Presentation of the abundant new factual data which has been making its welcome appearance in the six years since publication of the first edition certainly adds to the value of this reference work. It would be difficult, however, to point out specific instances where this new information has caused significant changes in the basic far-sighted precepts of the first edition.