

agent (a halothane-nitrous oxide-oxygen combination is the common preference), and postoperative care and management with potential complications all can be learned from this volume. For the internist, whose field should include this knowledge, for the anesthesiologist who has not availed himself to the modern aspects of anesthesia and respiratory care, and for the surgeon who is intimately involved in these problems this book will be of great value and very informative.

Two major points are made in various parts of the book: 1. the advice not to discontinue mechanical assistance to respiration too soon; and 2. the importance, and without which successful treatment is practically impossible, of the respiratory nurse and trained inhalation therapist.

Dr. Holaday has accomplished his aim in presenting a useful "guide for the safe management of patients with pre-existing lung disease who are to undergo anesthesia and surgical operation." It is really hoped that this volume and similar written material will stimulate those responsible for treating respiratory failure to manage their patients according to the special techniques and practices presented.

HAROLD A. LYONS, M.D.

**Emergency Room Care.** EDITED BY CHARLES ECKERT. Pp. 352, 40 illustrations. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1967. Paper \$7.50, cloth \$11.50.

The size (small enough to slip in the pocket of a white coat) and appearance (paperback) lead one to believe that the book is intended for the house officer rotating through the emergency room to assist him in his growing task of handling large numbers of patients with an enormous variety of diseases and conditions. However, the organization and presentation of material make it more suitable for fireside leisure reading than on-the-spot reference when faced with a problem patient.

All 24 authors are or were on the faculty of Albany Medical College of Union University, Albany, New York, so the information presented represents the attitudes of one institution. Fortunately, there is no effort to hide this fact, and authors and editor freely admit that alternative methods are omitted to preserve brevity. Unfortunately only a few chapters are referenced. Most chapters are followed by a short list of standard textbooks relating to the subject, but specific references are omitted.

The first chapter, "Planning and Operation of the Emergency Room," is an excellent piece of work, the result of much penetrating thought and a good deal of practical experience in an emergency room.

Chapter three, "The Severely Injured Patient," is of interest to anesthesiologists because it sorts injuries into those which are fatal within minutes, those which are fatal within hours and those which are fatal after several days. I found myself

happily agreeing with many things such as the use of Ringer's lactate in initial resuscitation of shock, and violently disagreeing with many points such as, "direct cardiac massage is less effective than closed chest massage and, further, that open massage is never effective where closed massage has failed."

Two-thirds of the book is devoted to surgical emergencies, including a nice chapter on obstetrical and gynecologic emergencies. The remaining third of the book covers toxicology, cardiac emergencies, gastrointestinal emergencies, infectious diseases, the unconscious patient, neurologic emergencies, pediatric emergencies and psychiatric emergencies. Under these circumstances, many very important diseases and conditions are barely mentioned or omitted. The value of the book is therefore limited when the house officer needs information about a specific patient. I fear that if this book is to be useful in the emergency room it must be supplemented by a "Merek Manual" and Conn's "Current Therapy."

ADOLPH H. GIESECKE, M.D.

**Surgical Bleeding.** BY ALEX W. ULIN AND SEYMOUR S. GOLUB. Cloth. Pp. 532, with tables and illustrations. McGraw Hill Book Co., New York, 1966. \$23.50.

This book, composed of 71 rather short, concise chapters, is divided into four sections. The first, "Basic Science," contains an excellent review of the physiology of blood coagulation, coagulation tests, and agents which influence hemostasis. Section Two, "Clinical Categories of Surgical Bleeding," provides a short but thorough review of primary diseases affecting hemostasis, together with appropriate prophylactic and therapeutic management in the event the patients require operation. Section Three deals with "Regional Considerations in Surgical Bleeding." The surgeon will find those chapters which describe approaches to the control of hemorrhage valuable in that many helpful hints on diagnosis are made, but many of the chapters are about surgical technique and will be of less interest. Section Four, "Recent Advances," has chapters on techniques and procedures for blood volume measurement, blood transfusion, anticoagulation, and control of hemorrhage. These give the surgeon valuable information to broaden his appreciation of what is available to him in the care of these patients.

This book is a compendium of most of the generally-accepted current thought on the problems relative to hemostasis, written in a quickly-readable style by authorities in the field. Sections One, Two and Four may be recommended highly to any physician, although they are written with the surgical patient in mind. Accurate diagnosis and appropriate management of bleeding disorders will be better understood after perusal of these pages.

K. KARLSON, M.D.