used in testing, as well as for the variety of interpretations of what is being tested.

The section on clinical and therapeutic applications does not contain much of practical use to us. Nevertheless, for those who are confronted with patients who have chronic pain, a reading of this section can at least bring a better understanding of the complexities of the problem. The chapter by Dr. James White is well worth studying, as he discusses various surgical approaches to pain in the torso and extremities. Dr. White is one of the best informed surgeons on the treatment of pain in the world today.

In summary, this is not a book for the practising anesthesiologist unless he wishes to undertake the treatment of pain problems. Activities directed in other fields seem more popular nowadays.

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**Appraisal of Current Concepts in Anesthesiology.** EDITED BY JOHN ADRIANI. Volume IV. Pp. 464. St. Louis, C. V. Mosby Company, 1968. $12.00.

This book is a collection of current (to 1967) anesthetic literature prepared by the staff and trainees of the Anesthesiology Department of Charity Hospital, New Orleans. There are 50 easily-readable chapters on interesting topics related to clinical anesthesia. However, probably as the result of combining and condensing certain topics, several erroneous inferences appear. For example, on page 21 the term hydrophilic is used synonymously with lipid-soluble. Also on page 21, it is stated that thiopental is detoxified in the brain. The original reference does not corroborate this statement. On page 64, it is implied that ultrashort-acting barbiturates administered orally are poor hypnotics. This is contrary to the results reported by Bush *et al.* (Clin. Pharmacol. Ther. 7: 373, 1966) who demonstrated prompt and predictable hypnotic effects from orally administered ultrashort-acting barbiturates. In the chapter entitled "Halothane versus Cyclopropane Anesthesia for Patients in Shock," there is a lucid explanation for the choice of either agent, but at the end of the chapter the reader is told dogmatically to use cyclopropane. In the chapters dealing with psychological problems of the surgical patient preoperatively and with preoperative medication, no mention is made of the work of Egbert, L. D., *et al.* (J.A.M.A. 185: 553, 1963), who showed the importance of the preoperative visit by the anesthesiologist in allaying anxiety. This book has little to offer the anesthesiologist beginning his residency training, because the brevity and, at times, superficial treatment of the subject matter may tend to confuse rather than elucidate the many and varied problems related to clinical anesthesia. For the anesthesiologist who has kept up with the literature, the topics could only serve as a guide for further in-depth study.

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**Physiology of the Nervous System.** BY CARLOS EYZAGUIRRE. Pp. 216, illustrated. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., 1969. $6.50 paper, $8.50 cloth.

Dr. Eyzaguirre, professor and chairman of the department of physiology of the University of Utah College of Medicine, has written this book primarily for the first-year medical student. It is divided into five parts, the first dealing with general neurophysiology, and the remaining four with the application of general principles to the specific functions of sensory systems, motor systems, the anatomic nervous system, and the denervation and trophic functions.

It is the author's hope that by dealing with principles rather than collections of facts, that the student will acquire a better grasp of neurophysiology upon which to build. In this regard the work misses the mark, and it is likely that the first-year medical student, presented with a great quantity of pithy principles, without an opportunity to examine the evidence or gain an appreciation of neurophysiological experimental method, will retain few principles and fail to develop an interest in the subject.

However, for the postgraduate students, such as a resident or practitioner who needs to review and refresh an already-acquired basic knowledge of neurophysiology, the book will serve a useful purpose. The information is in concise form, and important terms or concepts are in italics. The illustrations for the most part are well chosen.

The divisions of the parts are somewhat arbitrary, and not altogether designed for a comprehensive view of the whole. Thus, the muscle receptors are discussed under the sensory system, while reflexes are discussed in the section on motor systems. Although this is justifiable on a logical basis, and cross-reference is made, the integrated picture of nervous system activity, long the goal of neurophysiologists, suffers.

The bibliography is purposely sparse. Unfortunately, this has resulted in its bulk being confined to texts in neurophysiology, which by definition are almost outdated by publication time. The original articles quoted are few, with publication times generally before 1962.

In this reviewer's opinion, the book will serve a limited but useful role as a review for those persons outside neurophysiology, but with a good background in it, who need to brush up and refresh their basic concepts. The very reasonable price adds greatly to its attractiveness for this purpose.

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