

Book Reviews

B. Raymond Fink, M.D., Editor

Drug Interactions. EDITED BY P. L. MORSELLI, S. GARATTINI, AND S. N. COHEN. New York, Raven Press, 1974. 406 pp. \$28.00.

It is generally acknowledged that drug interactions are real, that their likelihood increases dramatically with increasing number of drugs consumed by the patient, and that if drug interactions are encountered, then the patient is usually the worse for their occurrence. In the practice of their specialty, anesthesiologists make considerable use of drug interactions to the benefit of their patients. Currently, a considerable amount of space in the medico-scientific literature is occupied with reports and discussions of drug interactions, both theoretical and encountered, both *in vivo* and *in vitro*. The bewildering "array of possibilities" has led to the publication of tabulated texts of known interactions derived from all kinds of sources.

The proceedings of this recent superb international symposium (yet another of the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research, Milan) has brought together the finest researchers in medical science, scholars from many disciplines, to present their own studies of the many points at which drug interactions may take place. The reader will discover that many drug interactions take place outside the receptor sites. They may take place at the level of absorption, excretion, metabolism, tissue distribution, protein binding, and subcellular localization. If the reader is already aware of this, then he may be tempted to review the basis of his beliefs: some of the dogma is no longer acceptable in the light of contemporary knowledge.

The 38 individual papers are subgrouped under 11 headings: absorption, excretion, microsomal enzymes, extrahepatic metabolism, protein binding, the subcellular level, pharmacokinetics, multiple mechanisms, drug levels, protocol design, and information systems.

This book will be of advantage primarily to clinical pharmacologists and other drug scientists, although some of the papers have material directly helpful to anesthesiologists. One of the essays is devoted to beneficial and undesirable drug interactions in anesthesia, but is disappointing in that most of its material is "old hat," the majority of citations being of the early and mid-1960's. Other papers review subjects relevant to the anesthesiologist, such as the metabolism of antipyretic-analgesics, the metabolic capabilities of mammalian lung tissues, calcium-drug interactions, diazepam metabolism in the newborn, and respiratory depression associated with a new synthetic morphine-like analgesic. A most stimulating paper is the one in which W. Wardell examines the evidence for common drug interactions based on redistribution phenomena, such as displacement of

one drug from plasma proteins by another. General principles are discussed by A.S. Nies and co-workers. M. Rowland and co-workers review interactions of drugs that alter hepatic blood flow and hepatic metabolism, and modify the disposition of another drug.

The symposium concludes with several papers describing the setup and use of a drug interaction data-base for computer-assisted screening and handling of prescription drugs in hospitals. This excellent handbook is essential reading for the researcher and teacher of drug sciences.

LAURENCE E. MATHER, Ph.D.
Departments of Anesthesiology
and Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

Cardiac Catheterization and Angiography. EDITED BY WILLIAM GROSSMAN. Philadelphia, Lea and Febiger, 1974. 339 pp. \$24.50.

The editor and contributors have done a competent job in covering the major techniques used in the catheterization laboratory today, with especially good sections on hemodynamics, angiography, and cardiac function. The bibliography, in general, is excellent. My only negative reaction to this book is to Part VI, "Non-Invasive Techniques." This section could well have been omitted. This book should serve well the young cardiologist or investigator who is concerned with setting up a new laboratory and who is forced, perhaps for the first time, to consider methodology.

J. R. BLACKMON, M.D.
Division of Cardiology
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

Éthrane. EDITED BY P. LAWIN AND R. BEER. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1974. 389 pp. \$26.20.

The First European Symposium on Modern Anesthetic Agents, organized by Lawin and Beer, was held in Hamburg, Germany, on November 9 and 10, 1973. This book contains the proceedings of this meeting. Eighty-seven anesthesiologists from ten western European countries presented their data in 28 original papers. In addition, three panel discussions dealt with the effects of enflurane on the cardiovascular system, the suitability of enflurane for anesthesia in newborns and children, and clinical experience with enflurane. Most of the presentations are printed in German; some are in English and a few are in French.