

BOOK REVIEW

Edward Lowenstein, M.D., Editor

Understanding Anaesthesia. BY L. E. S. CARRIE AND P. J. SIMPSON.
Pages: 468. Price: \$12.75 (British pound).

This elementary introduction of anesthesia is authored by two British anesthesiologists with two additional contributors providing chapters on cardiac and pediatric anesthesia. It is an easily readable text and extremely broad in scope, consisting of 48 short chapters covering the physiology, pharmacology, and principles of anesthesia, as well as an overview of clinical practice. The amount of area covered does not permit depth of material, and as such, its usefulness to serious students of the specialty is limited.

The stated objective in the preface is "to cover the curricula of postgraduate nurses and operating department assistants, both of which put considerable emphasis on a knowledge of physiology and pharmacology." The content is presented in a basic manner appropriate for the intended audience, though consistently superficial and at times

incomplete (e.g., volatile anesthetic agents). In addition, occasional errors in content (e.g., normal venous oxygen tension 50 mmHg, thiopentone hypotension due to vasodilation, myocardial depression attributed to curare) reduce this book's value for all but the casual reader.

More informative chapters are those on premedication, spinal and epidural analgesia, and pediatric anesthesia. Interesting reading, in addition, are the historic vignettes preceding selected chapters and a lucid discussion in the introduction of the concept of anesthesia. The text is unreferenced, but a reading list is provided for interested readers.

FREDERICK W. CAMPBELL, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesia
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

NOTICE TO COPIERS

The appearance of the code at the bottom of the first page of an article in this journal indicates the copyright owner's consent that copies of the article may be made for personal or internal use, or for personal or internal use of specific clients. This consent is given on the condition, however, that the copier pay the stated per-copy fee through the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 21 Congress Street, Salem, Massachusetts 01970, for copying beyond that permitted by Sections 107 or 108 of the U. S. Copyright Law. This consent does not extend to other kinds of copying, such as copying for general distribution, for advertising or promotional purposes, for creating new collective works, or for resale.