

*Ventures in Science of a Country Surgeon.* By ARTHUR E. HERTZLER, M.D., Halstead, Kansas. Pp. 304, with 85 illustrations. Privately printed.

In this, his latest book, Dr. Hertzler devotes a chapter to local anesthesia that is of interest to anesthesiologists. He tells of his early work with cocaine, later quinine and urea hydrochloride, and finally procaine hydrochloride. The narration is fascinating because of the simple, personal way it is told. He describes the numerous tests of various anesthetic solutions in the skin of his leg, the numerous operations performed with local anesthesia, and presents his ideas on spinal anesthesia, with a bit about anesthetists in gen-

eral. One gathers that the doctor does not think physicians in anesthesia are very necessary, for he makes the observation that spinal anesthesia is so simple that it may be relegated to an understudy, and by avoiding general anesthesia, the surgeon avoids the "constant chatter of the anesthetist."

All in all, this is an enjoyable book, albeit a bit tiresome at times. The chapters on wound healing, chronic appendicitis, sciatica and other neuralgias were particularly interesting. If one wishes to read of an interesting life, devoted to outstanding independence of thought, combined with eagerness to learn how and why, then this book by Dr. Hertzler will furnish much inspiration.

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