BOOK REVIEWS

THE LIVER AND ANAESTHESIA. L. Strunin. W.B. Saunders, 1977. Price \$24.

PROFESSOR STRUNIN's monograph is a first in this neglected area of liver and he has set a high standard for others to follow.

The section on basic principles offers a brief, but clinically useful sketch of anatomy, physiology and biochemistry as it applies to the liver, and a brief account of liver function tests and drug metabolism. The treatment of coagulation defects is, perhaps, too brief. The chapter on viral hepatitis is excellent. In an area that is developing faster than almost any other in medicine, it is rewarding to read a concise and understandable account of the present thinking in viral hepatitis. In contrast, jaundice, hepatocellular disease and acute liver failure have shown fewer advances, but are well reviewed.

Post-operative hepatic dysfunction and its causes are, for the first time, reviewed with a balanced account of the many factors which participate. Circulatory effects, endocrine changes, biodegradation, and immunity are all considered in their probable role. Of special note, the problem of halothane hepatitis is dealt with head-on in a systematic, concise and well documented review.

As Professor Mushin indicates in the preface, this book breaks new ground; it is equally notable in its brevity, easy reading, and in its usefulness to the practicing anaesthetist.

John J. Caesar

A SYNOPSIS OF ANESTHESIA. R.S. ATKINSON, G.B. RUSHMAN, AND J. ALFRED LEE. Bristol, John Wright and Sons Ltd. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, Eighth Edition. Price: \$29.65.

THE EIGHTH EDITION of Lee's "Synopsis of Anaesthesia" is a welcome addition to the contemporary literature. This work has achieved tremendous international popularity since the appearance of the first edition in 1947 and the eighth edition continues in the excellent tradition of its predecessors.

Any attempt to review this volume in detail would be fruitless. The "SYNOPSIS" deals succinctly and adequately with every aspect of the specialty of anaesthesia and adequately reflects

contemporary knowledge and practise throughout. The references, provided at the bottom of each page, are extensive so that the reader using this volume as a quick reference has a ready guide to a useful selection of the relevant literature.

It is unfortunate that in expanding the volume to 985 pages, the publishers have chosen to retain the small format (11 × 18 cm). The earliest editions of this work were well adapted to this pocket-book size. However, the continuation of this format in the eighth edition has resulted in a book which is awkward to handle and which might better have been accommodated in a larger and thinner volume.

A Synopsis of Anaesthesia continues to be an excellent source of reference in the specialty for students and practitioners of anaesthesia of all grades.

R.A. Gordon

CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS OF THE HEART AND GREAT VESSELS. HANS BANKL. Baltimore, Urban & Schwarzenberg, 1977. Price \$24.50.

THIS EXCELLENT SYNOPSIS of the entire field of congenital cardiovascular malformations has been condensed into 229 pages. The text is based on the author's personal examination of 1,000 cases complemented by relevant facts from the world literature on the subject (including 793 references).

The first 29 pages (Part I) deal with the embryology, and development of the circulatory system in respect to the origin of the anomalies. The remainder of the book (Part II) deals with specific malformations based on an anatomical classification. Each subject is organised sequentially as follows: definition and classification of subtypes, frequency and distribution by sex, embryology, pathological anatomy, haemodynamic consequences and prognosis and mortality. Information is easily obtained in each section because of the frequent use of headings, lists, tables, italics and diagrams and photographs.

It can be strongly recommended for the use of medical students, residents and physicians both as a practical guide to congenital heart disease and as a source for further reference material.

A.W. Conn

PULMONARY FUNCTION TESTING. R.M. CHERNIACK. Toronto, W.B. Saunders Company, 1977. 291 pp. Price \$9.20.

THIS IS A CONCISE, up-to-date text aimed primarily at the medical student/junior resident level of training. Although concise the text is complete and deals with pulmonary mechanics, pulmonary ventilation, blood and gas exchange, gas transport and acid-base balance, control of breathing, assessment of ventilatory function, assessment of gas exchange and interpretation of pulmonary function. Recent advances in assessment of early changes of peripheral airways disease such as

closing volumes are treated adequately. Comparisons between normal function and simple pathophysiological states such as emphysema and pulmonary fibrosis are made in relation to pulmonary function testing. The author tends to rely heavily on models to explain lung function and in some cases model complexity tends to confuse the reader. An important advantage of this small text is a section on self-assessment at the end of each chapter. It will be a useful introduction and refresher course to those interested in pulmonary function.

A. Sandler