BOOK REVIEWS

HALOTHANE (FLUOTHANE). By C. RONALD STEPHEN and DAVID M. LITTLE, JR.
Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Co.; Toronto: Burns & MacEachern Ltd. 1961. \$6.30.

THIS SMALL VOLUME is an excellent review of the present status of the accumulated knowledge of and clinical experience with Halothane. It is well written, well documented, and should be read by all those who use or intend to use Halothane in clinical practice.

R.A.G.

METABOLIC EFFECTS OF ANAESTHESIA. By S. H. NGAI and E. M. PAPPER. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas; Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 1962. \$6.25.

THIS IS a brief outline of the subject, being hardly detailed enough to qualify as a review of contemporary knowledge. It does, however, serve to bring the headline information to the attention of the reader, and to point out those areas where there are still large defects in our knowledge. The sophisticated reader will gain little from this volume; the student of anaesthesia will need to read much more than is presented here to achieve a reasonable grasp of the problems of metabolism and ventilation in relation to his specialty. The bibliography is extensive, and is undoubtedly the most valuable portion of the publication.

R.A.G.

ANALGESIA AND ANESTHESIA IN OBSTETRICS. By J. P. GREENHILL. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas, Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 2nd Ed. 1962. \$5.75.

THIS BOOK is written by an obstetrician. The discussions of the anaesthetic agents in their application to the obstetrical situation are extremely rudimentary and contain inaccuracies and misinformation. The brief discussion of aspiration of vomitus makes only the slightest reference to the acid aspiration syndrome, and completely ignores recent work on the treatment of this most serious complication. The widely used lumbar epidural technique is not mentioned at all. The bibliography is meagre and far from contemporary. The volume cannot be recommended.

R.A.G.

MODERNE NARKOSE, THEORIE UND PRAXIS DER ROUTINE VERFAHREN.
By LOTHAR BARTH and MANFRED MEYER. Jena: V.E.B. Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1962.
53.80 D.M.

Modern General Anaesthesia, Theory and Practice of Routine Procedures, is the title of this new German book. The authors wish to stress that the book is written for those interested in anaesthesia and also for those who practise anaesthesia on a part-time basis. They do not claim to have produced a comprehensive text, but hope to answer questions which they encountered while training physicians in general anaesthesia.

It is a difficult task to steer between a lecture series and a textbook. The title is somewhat misleading, as one expects wider coverage of routine procedures in

anaesthesia as applied to the different fields of surgery. Electrolyte disturbances, endocrine disorders, and some other pathological conditions belong to the sphere of the modern anaesthetist just as much as the very detailed knowledge of lung physiology, especially in a book of more than 400 pages. However, the book contains a good outline on the pharmacology of the most important drugs used in modern anaesthesia. The anaesthetic equipment is well described. Different techniques are weighed against each other and, in addition, pitfalls and errors are discussed. Tables and illustrations are well selected from the literature. The many unsigned drawings, photographs, and X-rays, presumably by the authors and their staff, are clear and instructive. It is hoped that in a second edition other fields of anaesthesia will be included and just as well illustrated as the chapters on breathing in this edition.

B. KALOW, M.D.

DRUGS IN ANAESTHETIC PRACTICE. By WOOD-SMITH and STEWART. Toronto: Butterworths. 1962. \$12.75.

THIS VERY COMPREHENSIVE BOOK might more properly be called a synopsis of drugs used in anaesthetic practice. There are twenty-two chapters devoted to different classes of drugs, some used purely in anaesthesia, while others ("Cardio-vascular Drugs," "Hormones," "Diuretics") are those whose use in the surgical patient might affect the anaesthetic management. One chapter comprises a thumb-nail sketch of acid-base balance, and fluid and electrolyte therapy.

The sections concerning the anaesthetic drugs are less satisfactory than the balance of the book, perhaps because of the necessary brevity. Some of the statements might be questioned, such as the potency of thiamylal being twice that of thiopentone, or the only drug treatment of convulsions due to local anaesthetic overdosage being an intravenous barbiturate.

This book should find its main use as a rapid means of reviewing the basic pharmacology of anaesthetic and allied drugs. At the end of most sections there is a list of references to the drug in question.

T.R.H.

PRACTICAL ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY FOR THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST.

By VERNE L. BRECHNER, M.D., RICHARD D. WALTER, M.D., and JOHN B. DILLON, M.D. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas; Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 1962. \$8.75.

THIS SMALL VOLUME² (103 pages) is designed for the practising anaesthetist. It deals briefly with the genesis of the electroencephalogram, with the types of instrument available and their use, and the interpretation of records. It deals rather more completely with the standard electroencephalographic patterns produced by anaesthetic agents and discusses the effects of a variety of physiological disturbances such as hypoxia, hypercarbia, hypotension, carotid artery occlusion, and vena caval occlusion. Special chapters are devoted to electroencephalography in extracorporeal circulation, during hypothermia, and in relation to unexpected cardiac arrest. This volume should be most useful to every anaesthetist who wishes to use the electroencephalograph as a monitoring device in the operating room.

R.A.G.