BOOK REVIEWS

ANAESTHESIOLOGY AND INTENSIVE CARE MEDICINE. Volume 109. 20 Years Halothane (20 Jahre Fluothane). Editor: Kirchner E. 1978. 151 figs., 56 tabs. XVIII, 343 pages (18 in English). Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer-Verlag. Soft cover DM 58, - U.S. \$29.00. ISBN 3-540-08602-1.

THIS SYMPOSIUM on halothane deals with many different facets of the drug, its chemistry and toxicity, pharmacology and pharmacokinetics, effects on various organs and organ systems, and clinical application. In actual fact it represents the Proceedings of a Symposium which was divided into six sessions and comprises a total of 42 individual presentations with 91 contributors, most of these representing German-speaking nations.

The introductory honorary lecture was given by Dr. Michael Johnstone of Manchester, a well-known pioneer of halothane and his résumé makes fascinating reading coming from the pen of one who has devoted much of his professional life to the introduction, study and defence of halothane. One other short paper is also in English and there are English summaries to some, but by no means all, contributions.

Comprehensive and interesting as this volume is, it will be of real use only to those who have a

good command of the German language, but it could be a reference for anyone who wishes to broaden his knowledge of the subject.

G.M. Wyant

RESPIRATORY THERAPY PHARMACOLOGY. Dr. Joseph L. Rau, Jr. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, 1978. Price \$13.90.

This valuable monograph by Dr. J.L. Rau is a small (144 pages) but comprehensive book concerning all drugs used in the field of respiratory therapy. It is written in an uncomplicated manner which is easily understood and includes many excellent diagrams to supplement the text.

The first and longest chapter reviews in simple language basic pharmacological principles concerning all drugs. Each of the thirteen subsequent chapters describes groups of drugs used in pulmonary disease and methods of administration, dosages, complications, etc.

This book is inexpensive and can be highly recommended not only to respiratory therapists, but to medical students and nurses, as an excellent reference for pharmacological information in lung disease.

A.W. Conn.