

BOOK REVIEWS

MODERNE NARKOSE—THEORIE UND PRAXIS DER ROUTINEVERFAHREN (MODERN ANAESTHESIA—THEORY AND PRACTICE OF ROUTINE METHODS). By **LOTHAR BARTH** and **MANFRED MEYER**. Preface by **DR. W. W. MUSHIN**. 2nd edition. Jena: V.E.B. Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1965. Pp. 607. DM 62.50.

THE PICTURE on the dust jacket reminds one of an article in the magazine *Punch* entitled "Sleeping Partners," where it is said in relation to progress in anaesthesia that "the anaesthetists' machines became bigger and more aggressive forcing the surgeon to operate uncomfortably in the remaining corner of the theatre."

Between the covers, Dr. Barth and Dr. Meyer do not advocate the use of such an array of instruments routinely in modern anaesthesia, but attempt to bring basic information gained in this fashion in an understandable form to the practising anaesthetist. The authors have succeeded in their objective to a remarkable degree, and the credit given them in Dr. Mushin's preface is fully justified. This is not a complete textbook; selected chapters deal with the pharmacology of anaesthetic agents and adjuvants, the technique of inhalation anaesthesia, the maintenance of the airway, respiration, artificial ventilation of the lungs, the open thorax, blood transfusion, and fluid and electrolyte balance. In each chapter the clinical management outlined is related to findings obtained in the laboratory or clinical investigations, thereby explaining the rationale for the clinical procedure. The text is clearly written and avoids complexities; basic theories and principles are well explained. The technique of framing important statements for greater emphasis contributes to the teaching value of the book. All chapters are richly illustrated with well-selected pictures, graphs, and drawings, to the point that one may profitably leaf through the book with only a very superficial knowledge of German.

An authoritative bibliography ends each chapter; eastern and western publications have been considered according to their scientific merits.

This book has been written and published in East Germany; considering the difficulties imposed by the Iron Curtain one must admire the authors for having gathered this wealth of material, mainly from western sources, and for producing this outstanding text. Their success is reflected by a second edition in four years. The venerable publishing house, Gustav Fischer, has regained much of its former eminence.

It is unfortunate that there is really no comparable publication available in North America; residents in training in anaesthesia would greatly profit from a similar text. This book is highly recommended to German-speaking anaesthetists; the wealth of illustrations and diagrams could make it a worthwhile acquisition for teachers in anaesthesia even if their knowledge of German is limited.

W.E.S.

AUSWIRKUNGEN DER ATEMMECHANIK AUF DEN KREISLAUF (THE INFLUENCE OF RESPIRATORY MECHANICS ON THE CIRCULATION). By RUDOLF SCHORER. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer Verlag, 1965. Pp. 58. (This is volume of the series "Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation" of the Springer Verlag.)

THIS MONOGRAPH discusses the influence of the mean intrapulmonary pressure on circulation and gas exchange and the influence of respiratory movements on the circulation. From well-documented studies in dogs the author shows that with a mean intrapulmonary pressure near zero, cardiac output and gas exchange are almost normal, and demonstrates in a series of rather elaborate experiments that the spontaneous respiratory movements are haemodynamically of little importance. An increase in the mean intrapulmonary pressure reduces mainly the stroke volume, while a decrease affords a modest increase in cardiac output but also increases the venous admixture, presumably because of the collapse of alveoli.

The author's findings are of interest to anaesthesiologists and physicians working with respirators. One wonders however, whether a book is a reasonable way to disseminate this knowledge, and how small a book may be and still deserve the name. The author's efforts might have been better rewarded by publication of his material in the form of a special article in a journal.

W.E.S.

FUNDAMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN ANAESTHESIA. By CHARLES L. BURSTEIN, M.D. 3rd edition. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas; Toronto: Ryerson Press. 1966. \$10.25.

THIS VOLUME is developed from a series of lectures given to medical officers in the Second World War in order to create "instant" anaesthetists or to "help dispel fear with which the technician anaesthetist is so often possessed." If there was any justification for such a volume during the emergencies of wartime, there is surely none for its presentation today.

The second chapter is a puerile restatement of Guedel's classical signs and symptoms of anaesthesia. In describing the rapid, deep, breathing of the first plane the author states "the patient seems to be saying 'some more! some more!'—he would like more anaesthesia."

Some of the author's definitions are arbitrary and inaccurate—for example, "By apnoea is meant cessation of respiratory movements other than that due to anaesthetic overdose."

There is a good chapter, however, on the anatomy and physiology of laryngeal obstruction.

In discussing haemorrhagic shock it is advised to withhold blood transfusion in some cases until the bleeding point is ligated. No reason is given; no specific cases are described. This surely is dangerous advice.

The author suggests that d-tubocurarine be used in doses of 6 to 9 mg. in the treatment of autonomic reflexes, and advises that this will cause intercostal paralysis as well. These homeopathic doses will sound peculiar to the Canadian- or British-trained anaesthetist.

The chapter on cardiac arrest has the glaring omission of external cardiac compression and completely ignores the rapid advances made since 1960 in this field.

The author cautions against use of prostigmine in the treatment of persistent curarization because of the production of mucous secretions which will cause respiratory obstruction! In his short chapter on newer drugs and their effects on anaesthetic management, any discussion of monoamine oxidase inhibitors has been completely omitted.

This pot-pourri of advice, technique, and laboratory investigation may have been of use in the early forties but is surely an anachronism in 1966.

M.M.

CLINICAL ANAESTHESIA: MANAGEMENT OF THE PATIENT IN SHOCK.

Edited by LOUIS R. ORKIN, M.D. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis; Toronto: Ryerson Press. 1965. \$9.00.

THIS MONOGRAPH, which is the eighth since 1963 in the Clinical Anaesthesia series, is uniform in style and content, even though written by a number of authors. It contains a detailed index, and references follow each chapter.

Among the subjects discussed are: Nitrous-Oxide-Thiopental Relaxant; Electrolyte Therapy in Shock; Management during Anaesthesia; Pharmacologic Adjuncts to the Management of Shock; Local Infiltration or Peripheral Nerve Block Anaesthesia for Surgery on the Patient in Shock; Cyclopropane Anaesthesia; Halothane Anaesthesia during Hypovolaemic Hypotension; and Neurolept Analgesia. Each contributor is familiar with the technique that he advocates, and therefore his reasons and presentation are excellent. The editor summarizes the views of the authors in the concluding chapter. This book should be read, digested, and discussed by all anaesthetists.

R.L.M.

ANAESTHESIA FOR OPEN HEART SURGERY. Compiled and edited by

LILLIAN E. FRANKS, M.D., and DRYDEN P. MORSE, M.D. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas; Toronto: Ryerson Press. 1966. \$6.50.

THE TAPE RECORDING of a symposium on anaesthesia for open heart surgery from which this monograph has been prepared has been so edited that the information is incomplete. Most of the contributors are from Philadelphia and New York.

Only three of seventeen chapters have any references. The very complete index only points out the inadequate text.

One interested in anaesthesia for cardiopulmonary bypass would find insufficient information here.

R.L.M.

HISTORICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL APPROACHES TO MODERN RESUSCITATION. By JOHN W. PEARSON, M.B. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas; Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 1965. \$7.75.

THIS MONOGRAPH can be divided into three sections. The first presents a carefully researched and interesting review of the history of respiratory and cardiac resuscitation. The second section deals with the author's acute animal experiments. The presentation and discussion of these experiments, ten in number, are difficult to follow because they are listed in one chapter and discussed in the next. The third section deals with the clinical aspects of resuscitation.

For one interested in the history of cardiac and respiratory resuscitation this book can be recommended, but those interested in the actual management would be advised to look elsewhere.

R.L.M.