

BOOK REVIEWS

PROGRESS IN NEUROLEPT ANALGESIA (FORTSCHRITTE DER NEUROLEPTANALGESIE). By M. GEMPERLE. Berlin, Heidelberg, N.Y.: Springer Verlag. 1966. Pp. 148.

THE PUBLICATION of a progress report just one year after Dr. Henschel's monograph on neuroleptanalgesia indicates the great interest of European anaesthetists in the use of the drug combination of droperidol and fentanyl. This eighteenth volume in the series *Anesthesiology and Resuscitation* contains papers and a panel discussion from the meeting of the German, Swiss, and Austrian anaesthetists in 1965 in Zurich. The majority of papers report on experiences in various clinical applications of neuroleptanalgesia (or "neurolept anaesthesia," as Dr. Foldes suggests in this volume, since in most of the reports the patient was rendered unconscious by the use of nitrous oxide or halothane). In addition there are reports of experimental work on tolerance to anoxia, liver function, intestinal function, and cardiovascular responses. All clinical investigators report favourably on the use of droperidol and fentanyl and the advantages of this technique in poor-risk patients. Without the earlier monograph the uninitiated reader may be confused by the terminology. The appearance of extrapyramidal symptoms appears to be an occasional undesirable side-effect and seems more frequent in children and young adults.

English summaries of each paper make their content more accessible to the Canadian anaesthetist; with the likely increasing interest in the use of these drugs in North America this monograph can provide helpful references.

W.E.S.

ANAESTHESIA AND EMERGENCIES (ANAESTHESIE UND NOTFALLMEDIZIN), *Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation*, volume 15. By K. HURTSCHENREUTER. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer Verlag. 1966. Pp. 286. \$48.00.

A NUMBER OF PAPERS from the meeting of Central European Anaesthetists in Zurich in 1965 have been collected under this heading; emergency is the uniting theme for a wide variety of topics ranging from the determinations of vapour concentrations in the Gardner universal vaporizer to the treatment of acute pulmonary oedema. The legal aspects of emergency anaesthesia, the design of an ambulance, and landing rights of helicopters near hospitals are considered side by side with problems of shock, electrolyte balance, and injury. Two panel discussions deal with anaesthetic problems in catastrophes and anaesthesia for the acute abdomen.

Although the quality of the papers varies greatly, this volume makes interesting reading and contains much valuable information. The individual papers are

accompanied by an English summary, and pertinent references from the literature are appended.

Thus far in this series, several volumes have consisted of a number of individual papers dealing with a variety of subjects, often only loosely connected by a guiding theme, as in the above volume. It would be most helpful if the publisher would make an index available, perhaps for several volumes combined, in order to make their contents more accessible.

W.E.S.

LOCAL ANALGESIA: BRACHIAL PLEXUS BLOCK (OERTLICHE BETA-EUBUNG: PLEXUS BRACHIALIS), Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation, volume 19. By R. R. MACINTOSH AND W. W. MUSHIN. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer Verlag, 1967.

THIS MONOGRAPH, originally published in 1944 has been well known to anaesthetists in English-speaking countries for many years. The authors' approach to a blockade of the brachial plexus has served well for many of us and is still practised in spite of the presently popular axillary approach. The reviewer wonders why the original, with excellent illustrations and a clear text, would require translation to be useful for German anaesthetists, most of whom have a good working knowledge of English.

W.E.S.