

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DEAR SIR:

I was pleased to read Dr. Holland's paper on animal anesthesia in a recent edition of the journal (Holland, A.J.C., *Laboratory Animal Anaesthesia*. *Canad. Anaesth. Soc. J.* Vol. 20, No. 5). Dr. Holland's plea for humane treatment of animals and his emphasis on sophisticated anesthetic techniques appropriately adapted to suit a variety of animal species are welcome contributions to the human anesthesia literature.

I would like to point out, however, that the field of veterinary anesthesiology has evolved into a recognized specialty in veterinary medicine. Toward this end the American Society of Veterinary Anesthesiology was founded in 1970. Membership in the society is open to veterinarians, physicians, scientists and technicians in the United States and Canada who have an interest in veterinary anesthesia. In addition, the Canadian Council on Animal Care sets standards for the care and management of laboratory animals in Canada and attempts to see that appropriate anesthetics are employed in research laboratories.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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Assistant Professor (Anesthesia),

Secretary Am. Soc. Vet. Anes. '73/74

## BOOK REVIEW

THE NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL BACKGROUND FOR ANAESTHESIA. By MARY A.B. BRAZIER, Springfield, Illinois, Charles C. Thomas. Price \$13.75.

THIS BRIEF TEXT attempts to outline the complex patterns of neurophysiology related to the actions of the various classes of drugs and agents used by the anaesthetist. A major step in reaching an understanding of this field is the question posed in the introduction "Shall we study the cell, the organ system or the function of the whole organism?" A second significant question is posed - "Shall we study the direct action or the indirect action of drugs and agents?"

The text, in five parts, attempts to outline:

1. the physiology of pain
2. local anaesthesia
3. amnesia
4. muscle relaxants and
5. the electrical signs of the effect of anaesthetics on the brain.

Each chapter has specific information of interest to many anaesthetists. The bibliographies following each paragraph are extensive, and of use only to a very few research workers. The practicing anaesthetist should find most of the information outlined in this monograph more briefly summarized in the major texts. The teacher will tend to seek specific revised articles to assign as reference material in the five areas covered. These factors will no doubt limit the widespread use of this brief text. The text should be recognized however for its value as an authoritative collection of the relevant data concerning the changes effected by anaesthetic agents upon neurophysiological function. As a reference text and as an extensive bibliography, this text should find a place in the library of anaesthetic departments.