

BOOK REVIEWS

HOSPITAL PLANNING FOR THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST. By WILLIAM H. L. DORNETTE, M.D. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas [Toronto: Ryerson Press]. 1958. \$5.75.

THIS BOOK of 119 pages has been very thoughtfully and carefully written and, obviously, has been produced following a great deal of concentration and experience in planning not only for the anaesthesiologist but for all departments of a hospital.

No two hospitals are alike in their requirements, location, or over-all physical setup, so that adaptations of theoretical requirements have to be made to suit local circumstances. For the first time an anaesthesiologist has written a volume which can be used and should be read by anyone planning either a completely new hospital or alterations to an older setup. In a total of twenty-seven chapters, the author not only deals with operating rooms and facilities for recovery and intensive care, but goes into matters of general planning—communication systems, ventilation and air-conditioning, transport of patients, clinical laboratories and bloodbanks, emergency suites, planning for local disasters, and many other pertinent subjects.

This is a book well worth reading by anyone, whether anaesthesiologist or not, who is concerned with hospital planning either for new buildings or for remodeling old ones.

S.M.C

PHYSIOLOGY OF SPINAL ANAESTHESIA. By NICHOLAS M. GREEN, M.D. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins Company [Toronto: Burns & MacEachern]. 1958 Pp 195 \$6 00

THIS IS a very comprehensive and readable review of the subject of spinal anaesthesia. It embodies an extensive review of the literature pertaining to the effects on the central nervous, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems; changes in hepatic, renal, and endocrine functions; with a special chapter on obstetrical physiology. The text, even with interruptions for hundreds of references, is easily followed and arguments for and against are clearly defined. Although spinal anaesthesia has lost its popularity in some areas, the information presented is also largely applicable in the use of ganglionic blocking agents and peridural anaesthesia. The book should be read and studied by all students, practitioners, and specialists in anaesthesia.

S.L.V

CYCLOPROPANE ANAESTHESIA. By B. H. ROBBINS Second edition Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Co. [Toronto: Burns & MacEachern]. 1958. \$9 00.

THIS BOOK is the second edition of a classic in the anaesthesia literature. Initially, one is surprised to find that current interests would justify this new edition. However, the preface quotes statistics indicating that more cyclopropane is being used than ever before!

This volume can be recommended, unreservedly, as a well-produced, authoritative reference book on all matters relating to cyclopropane. The physiological effects of this agent on each system are discussed separately, and in addition there are chapters on the clinical problems involved. Of the latter, a chapter on muscle relaxants appeared a little irrelevant at times.

In searching for ten random items of information, the reviewer found no omissions and, on the contrary, found the bibliography most comprehensive and helpful.

H.B.F.

VARIED OPERATIONS By HERBERT A. BRUCE Toronto Longmans, Green & Co 1958.
\$6.00.

Varied Operations is the autobiography of a distinguished Canadian who has made an enviable place for himself not only in his chosen profession but in several other aspects of the society of his time. Dr. Bruce was for many years Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery at the University of Toronto and was for a time a member of the Board of Governors of that institution. As a mark of his achievements the degree of LL.D. was conferred on him by no less than three Canadian universities. His activities were by no means confined to the practice of surgery. Perhaps no other Canadian physician has been so prominent in so many and so varied fields; certainly few have made as great an impact on society at large in their generation.

The attraction of the book for many will be the picture it presents of Ontario ninety years ago. The medical reader of the younger generation will be keenly interested in the author's accounts of his medical school days, his early life as a surgeon at Toronto, and of the several teaching hospitals which have since grown to large proportions. There is much of interest for all readers, particularly those more politically minded, in the author's notations of the various causes which he espoused over the years—principles on which he took an unwavering stand. His service as Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario, his election to the House of Commons, and his place in Toronto society brought him into contact with numerous interesting personalities, many of them world-renowned. Scattered throughout the book are anecdotes, often amusing, relating to these individuals. All readers will find much of interest in these aspects of Dr. Bruce's autobiography.

Dr. Bruce was at all times fearless in expressing his opinions whether these were related to medical, political, or social matters. In consequence on occasions he found himself the target for adverse criticism from various quarters. He was not one to shrink from such attacks, but vigorously defended his positions. It is to his credit that subsequent events often justified the stands he so firmly took. However, medical readers of an age to recall certain bitter controversies in connection with medical affairs, here dealt with in some detail, disputes in which physicians of some prominence were involved, may feel that these wounds long since healed had been better left unprobed. In particular with reference to the reorganization of the Medical Faculty in 1921, most will no doubt be of the

opinion that while certain injustices may have been apparent at the time, the appointment of full-time professors in the three major departments of the Faculty has proven to be of outstanding value to the Medical School. These chairs have been occupied by a succession of professors, renowned outside as well as inside Canada. Dr. Bruce at that time was apparently unsympathetic towards this innovation.

Regardless of his medical, political, or social views, the reader will find much of interest in Dr Bruce's autobiography. It is most readable and never dull

H J S