

BOOK REVIEWS

PHARMACOLOGY. By J. H. GADDUM, S.C.D., F.R.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Professor of Pharmacology, University of Edinburgh. 4th ed., London: Oxford University Press. 1953. Pp. 562. \$5.25.

This textbook of Pharmacology is intended primarily for undergraduate medical students, as stated in the Preface. It does not contain sufficient material to be used as a reference for the specialist or postgraduate student in Anaesthesia. However, the chapters on muscle action and relaxants, narcotics and anaesthetics, though brief, may serve as a review for the occasional anaesthetist, and suggested reading for the undergraduate. The format is excellent, and the text is easily read.

S. L. V.

FUNDAMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN ANAESTHESIA. By CHARLES L. BURSTEIN, M.D. 2nd ed., Toronto: Macmillan Company of Canada. \$5.50.

In little over 200 pages, Dr. Burstein has collected a considerable volume of "physiopharmacological" information (to utilize Dr. Burstein's own adjective). Worthy of special mention are the innumerable references, which include articles published as recently as 1954.

This is essentially a book for the graduate who has had some experience in anaesthesia since, in the opinion of the reviewer, such a background is necessary to comprehend the theoretical and experimental facts relating to the fundamentals of modern anaesthesia which form the main content of the book.

Little is mentioned of techniques of anaesthesia and it seems unfortunate that Dr. Burstein should have chosen the controversial technique of controlled hypotension on which to dogmatize. While the majority of the subject-matter is extremely well presented and above any criticism, mention might be made of a few points:

(a) Dr. Burstein states, on page 47, that "arterial hypotension reduces the vascular supply to the tissue cells and cellular asphyxia is one of the detrimental results." One may feel that this requires to be qualified in the light of experience with controlled hypotension.

(b) Many anaesthetists will not agree with the routine preoperative use of procaine amide, as discussed on page 115.

(c) A discussion of methods of obtaining induced apnoea might have included the use of relaxants.

(d) Dr. Burstein's views on overdosage of relaxants and the treatment thereof will not coincide with those of most anaesthetists in Canada and Great Britain.

Having recorded the above few points, one must reiterate that this is a very worth-while little volume.

H. B. F.