

BOOK REVIEWS

PROGRESS IN ANAESTHESIOLOGY: PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONGRESS OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS. Edited by T. B. BOULTON, R. BRYCE-SMITH, M. K. SYKES, G. B. GILLETT, and A. L. REVELL. Amsterdam, Excerpta Medica Foundation, 1970. U.S. \$75.00.

THIS VOLUME CONTAINS the papers and symposia presented at the Fourth World Congress of Anaesthesiologists in London in September 1968. As such, it represents the work and views of the ranking anaesthetists of the world, and of the major medical centres throughout the world. The quality of these papers is exceedingly high, and the volume contains something for everyone. Here alone, perhaps, can one obtain a broad view of the state of anaesthesiology in the world of today. It is provided with an excellent index. This volume should certainly receive careful study by every anaesthetist, whether he be a trainee, teacher, or practising specialist.

R.A.G.

THE PHARMACOLOGICAL BASIS OF THERAPEUTICS. LOUIS S. GOODMAN and ALFRED GILMAN, Editors. Toronto: Collier-Macmillan Canada Limited. 4th edition. 1970. \$27.50.

SINCE THE APPEARANCE of the first edition in 1941, Goodman and Gilman has been the classic reference work and major textbook in the realm of pharmacology and drug therapy. This new edition is a successful updating of its predecessor of five years ago, with the inclusion of the newer drugs which have found a place in our therapeutic armamentarium, and a re-evaluation of the use of the older therapeutic agents. The inclusion of a new emphasis on the attitudes of society to the use and abuse of drugs and their social implications is timely, and will be welcomed by both students and the profession at large.

R.A.G.

ANAESTHESIA FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN. By ROBERT M. SMITH. St. Louis, Mo., C. V. Mosby Co. 3d Ed. \$23.65.

THIS IS THE third Edition in 10 years of a book which has become the classic text for all those involved in paediatric anaesthesia.

All 21 chapters are well-written and easily read. In most chapters, specific recommendations regarding anaesthetic agents and techniques are made, along with the advantages, disadvantages or complications. Alternative possibilities are also discussed when indicated. This information is based on extensive clinical experience and leaves little room for clinical criticism. Chapter 3, by Dr. C. D. Cook and Dr. E. K. Myotoma can be particularly recommended as presenting an extensive review of current knowledge in the respiratory physiology of infants and children.

A few minor criticisms can be made. In some areas, the scientific justification for recommendations has been omitted. In only one instance, the wisdom of instilling 0.5 per cent procaine intraperitoneally, can a statement be questioned. Certain techniques which are obsolescent, such as open-drop ether, rectal avertin, and a few of the regional techniques, have received disproportionate emphasis. Errors in the text and references are rare and almost unavoidable in such a valuable, comprehensive text.

In summary, the book can be highly recommended for both daily use and as a reference text book for all those involved in the administration of anaesthesia to the paediatric patient.

A.W.C.

L'ANESTHÉSIE VIGILE ET SUBVIGILE. Vol. I, No. 1. Ars Medici 59, Chemin de Fontaine-l'Evêque, Nivelles 1400, Belgique. \$6.00.

L'ANESTHÉSIE VIGILE et subvigile is a periodical published bi-monthly by La Société d'Anesthésie de Charleroi and edited by Ars Medici, Nivelles, Belgium. This periodical will be published in ten issues. They will cover the papers presented at the International Congress of Ostende (April 17-20, 1969) (\$50.00 for the ten issues).

Volume I, Number 1 of vigil and subvigil anaesthesia covers (a) an introduction on the physiological basis and the pharmacodynamics of anaesthesia by Prof. J. Reuse, Brussels, Belgium and on the glossary and history of vigil and subvigil anaesthesia by J. de Castro, Nivelles, Belgium. (b) a bilingual symposium on experimental and clinical pharmacodynamics of analgesics by Prof. P. Simon, Paris, France, acting as moderator and Paul A. J. Janssen, G. F. Somers, P. Viars and J. de Castro as participants.

This whole publication could be considered as an encyclopaedia treating upon the chemistry, the pharmacology of analgesics, be they old as morphia or new as etorphine; techniques and procedures of administration, be they called neuroleptanalgesia, sequential analgesia or dissociative anaesthesia. For these reasons, it is scientifically worthy having it available in the library of a department of anaesthesia, because, with the coming era of new concepts on the mode of actions of anaesthetics, this publication is inviting for frequent references.

A.J.