

BOOK REVIEWS

PERIPHERAL NERVE BLOCK. F.L. JENKNER. Vienna and New York, Springer-Verlag, pp. 116, 1977.

THIS small paperback volume manages by the use of a tabular form and superbly executed line-drawings to present in detail the classical approaches to blocking of the peripheral nerves, the somatic nerve roots and the autonomic ganglia. The work is introduced by a general section which describes briefly the mode of action of local anaesthetics and compares the action of the commonly used local anaesthetic drugs. Pain projection from organs and regions of the body is detailed and this is associated with detail of the peripheral nerves and somatic roots through which sensation is transmitted from each of these structures and regions. Complications and their treatment are also described concisely in this introductory section.

The book concludes with a brief section on the blocking of nerve conduction by transdermal electrical stimulation.

This little volume is highly recommended to every physician interested in peripheral nerve block.

R.A.G.

PERSISTENT PAIN. MODERN METHODS OF TREATMENT. Vol. 1. Sampson Lipton, Editor. London, Academia Press; New York, Grune & Stratton. pp. 272. 1977. Price \$20.50.

THIS BOOK is a collection of rather unrelated essays on the general subject of chronic pain. According to the Preface it is the intention eventually to cover the entire field in five or six volumes. Consequently it may be premature to comment on the completeness or otherwise of the subject matter treated in this volume, as future contributions may enlarge on some of the material. If one may make a preliminary observation, however, it would be to the effect that some of the information is inadequate to give more than the barest outline of the subject and discussion, quite insufficient to convey knowledge in depth or to permit translation into practice. Acupuncture and drug therapy are two cases in point. Others,

such as pituitary neuroadenolysis are described in some detail. The book leaves one with the impression of a lack of overall guidance and co-ordination on the part of the editor. While there are more profound texts on chronic pain, final judgement in this case must await publication of the complete set of volumes.

G.M.W.

INTRODUCTION TO ANESTHESIA. The Principles of Safe Practice. DRIPPS, R.D., ECKENHOFF, J.E., and VANDAM, L.D. W.B. Saunders Co., Toronto, Fifth Edition 1977. Price \$14.60.

THIS EDITION, dedicated to the memory of the senior author, provides a summary of current anaesthetic practices and problems in a well-organized and easily readable style. The material covered provides both a good introduction to Anaesthesia and a good review for those in established practice.

J.B.

MALIGNANT HYPERTHERMIA: CURRENT CONCEPTS. Ernest O. Henschel, Editor, New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1977. Price \$12.50.

THIS SMALL VOLUME contains the papers presented in a symposium held in Wausau, Wisconsin, in September 1974. This symposium was planned to up-date knowledge of the malignant hyperthermia syndrome.

The volume contains ten excellent papers, the first six being discussions of the clinical features of this pharmacogenetic disorder and the last four on research directed to elucidate the nature of the syndrome as it is seen in man and in susceptible swine.

The contributors are well-known investigators in the field and their work is well presented. A useful feature of the volume is the publication of a protocol for the management of malignant hyperthermia. This volume is highly recommended to physicians wishing to become familiar with current concepts of the nature and the management of malignant hyperthermia.

R.A.G.

PHYSIOLOGY FOR THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST. NISHAN G. GOUDSOUZIAN and AGOP KARAMANIAN. New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1977. Price \$22.50.

THE STATED AIMS of this book is to "provide anesthesiologists with an outline of physiology so they can understand and evaluate in a scientific manner the changes in physiologic parameters that occur during the administration of an anesthetic". The authors recognize in their preface that one cannot do justice to a subject as extensive as physiology in such a short volume. The reviewer must agree thoroughly with this view, and finds it difficult to imagine to what audience this volume can usefully be addressed.

The book contains five sections directed to discussion of circulation (113 pages), respiration (96 pages), the nervous system (72 pages), the endocrine system (38 pages), the kidney and body fluid (48 pages). It is evident that within this small framework the physiology of these systems cannot be dealt with adequately. The book should probably have been titled "Notes on Physiology". As a text book or reference book it is inadequate to serve the purpose for which it appears to have been designed.

R.A.G.

OUTLINE OF ANAESTHESIOLOGY - A STUDENT TEXTBOOK (GRUNDRISS DER ANAESTHESIOLOGIE - LEHRBUCH FÜR STUDENTEN). GOTTFRIED BENAD UND MANFRED SCHADLICH. Berlin, VEB Verlag Volk und Gesundheit, 264 pp., 1977.

IN THE FOREWORD to this little volume, the authors, the Chairman of the Department in Rostock, East Germany, and the Director of the Anaesthesia Department at the once world renowned Charité in Berlin, inform us that anaesthesiology has been since 1969 an obligatory part of the curriculum of medical-dental students in the German Democratic Republic. Hence the need for a basic publication to serve the students as an introduction to the principles and the scope of the specialty of anaesthesiology. The students are well served with this text which in four broad sections discusses local anaesthesia, general anaesthesia, special problems of anaesthesia and intensive care medicine. While the text on the whole is brief, avoids confusing detail and emphasizes aspects of practical importance to all students like infusion therapy, fluid balance or

muscle relaxants, some topics are curiously imbalanced; e.g., in the 60 pages on regional anaesthesia lumbar epidural anaesthesia is covered in two pages only or, while the problems of spinal punctures are well discussed and illustrated (based on the book by Macintosh) the student is told next to nothing about what local anaesthetic to inject and how to control the level of anaesthesia. Controlled ventilation, undoubtedly an important subject, is covered in fourteen pages, but this includes photographs of eight models of ventilators (five East German makes) which convey really no useful knowledge about their function. And the student receives only some cursory statements about the problems of obstetrical anaesthesia. However, these details should not detract from the value of the book as whole.

Although this German text has no practical application in Canada, it is of interest to note the strong influence of British anaesthesia, apart from an obvious West German influence, on the views of East German anaesthetists and the limited numbers of references to Russian or Eastern European literature in a general list of references.

East Germany has only a short tradition in Anaesthesia but it would appear that the teaching of our specialty carries weight and the enthusiasm of the teachers is reflected in these pages. I believe the authors deserve our congratulations for the effort on behalf of our specialty and for a respectable first attempt in a type of text that is difficult to present. At the same time, we should be reminded to look again at the publications for our students; for their student textbooks reflect on the status of our specialty.

W.E.S.

A CLINICAL APPLICATION OF BLOOD GASES. B.A. SHAPIRO, M.D., R.A. HARRISON, M.D., and J.A. WALTON, M.D. Year Book Medical Publishers, 284 pp., 1977. Price \$14.65.

THIS 2ND EDITION of a previously well accepted book is presented in four sections.

Section 1 deals with basic chemistry, physics and physiology pertinent to acid base and respiratory physiology. Sections 2, 3, and 4 go on to discuss the physiology of respiration and acid base balance that is germane to blood gas interpretation.

The novice in the field of blood gas interpretation will find this book most instructive; however,

this reviewer regrets the reference to acid base interpretation omits mention of the "anion gap". This and failure to mention the Schwartz confidence bands detract from any discussion on blood gases. Furthermore, the discussion and the accompanying figure relating to the P_{50} value are vague and confusing to those not familiar with this notation.

An extensive bibliography of 266 references is provided.

The reviewer believes that this book will be of value to medical students, interns, nurses and respiratory therapists: certainly it provides the basics needed for the understanding of this complicated subject.

References: Schwartz Confidence Bands. (1) *New England Journal* 272: 6 (1956). (2) *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, 44: 291 (1965).

LOCAL ANESTHETICS. RUDOLPH H. DE JONG. Springfield, Charles C. Thomas, Publisher 2nd edition, 1977. Price \$32.50.

THE ORIGINAL EDITION of this work published

under the title "Physiology and Pharmacology of Local Anesthesia" has been regarded as the authoritative reference source in its field. The work has been extensively revised in the second edition, to reflect current knowledge in the fields of membrane physiology, pharmacokinetics and biotransformation of local anaesthetics. The author deals at some length with the structure of peripheral nerve, impulse generation and propagation, and the mechanisms of impulse blockade by local anaesthetic drug. Cardiovascular and other systemic effects of local anaesthetics are discussed at length. Absorption, binding and disposition, biotransformation and toxic effects are fairly discussed.

This volume provides an admirable review of current knowledge of local anaesthetics, and is highly recommended.

R.A.G.