

BOOK REVIEWS

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND ANAESTHESIA. Edited by JOSEPH M. WHITE.
Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Company; Toronto: Ryerson Press. 1965. \$9.00.

THIS is the latest volume of the series entitled "Clinical Anaesthesia." While the emphasis is on training in anaesthesia and the place of the department of anaesthesia in teaching and research in the medical school, this work also contains valuable discussions of the problems facing medical education and medical educators as a whole. It is well written, well edited, and should certainly be read by every anaesthetist who has a concern with the process of medical education or with the teaching of anaesthesia at any level. It is to be devoutly hoped that it will also receive the attention it deserves from medical educators in other special fields.

R.A.G.

A PRACTICE OF ANAESTHESIA. By W. D. WYLIE and H. C. CHURCHILL-DAVIDSON. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publisher. 2nd edition, 1966. \$29.15.

IN ITS FIRST EDITION, this book has undoubtedly become the standard textbook of anaesthesia in Canada. The second edition has been brought up to date by skilful re-writing and the addition of chapters relating to new interests and areas where new knowledge has indicated the necessity of a more complete presentation, such as the chapters on Hyperbaric Air and Oxygen and Absorption and Distribution of Inhalational Anaesthetic Agents.

No textbook can provide in a single volume more than a reasonable outline of any one subject. The bibliography therefore becomes important in a textbook such as this. It is to be particularly noted that almost without exception the list of references provided at the end of each chapter is excellent and will provide a reasonable selection of reading in the area under discussion.

This book will undoubtedly be welcomed by all anaesthetists, and particularly by the postgraduate student in anaesthesia. It should certainly prove to be just as popular as the first edition has been.

R.A.G.

NEUROLEPT ANALGESIA (DIE NEUROLEPTANALGESIE). Report of the Second Symposium on Neurolept Analgesia in Bremen, May 30 and 31, 1964. Edited by W. F. HENSCHEL. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer Verlag. 1966. Pp. 207. DM 36.00.

THIS SYMPOSIUM, consisting of twenty-two individual papers and a round table discussion on neuroleptanalgesia, dealt with the pharmacological effects of the new drugs involved, Dihydroperidol and Phentanyl. Most of the participants had

apparently little doubt that neuroleptanalgesia is a superior technique; the presentations, however, fail to convince the reader of this. Only two authors attempted a comparison with other methods of anaesthesia and both were unable to present evidence that neuroleptanalgesia had favourable qualities in the parameters examined; these two papers were particularly criticized in the discussion. The majority of the papers demonstrate that, particularly with the addition of nitrous oxide, a form of anaesthesia can be achieved with neuroleptanalgesic drugs without undue disturbance of the various physiological and biochemical parameters measured. The severe respiratory depression received little detailed attention other than the recommendation to assist the ventilation. The claim of a 50 per cent reduction in oxygen consumption by adding a neuroleptanalgesic mixture to a light barbiturate anaesthesia remains to be confirmed. Little mention was made of specific indications for neuroleptanalgesia.

This review of the status of neuroleptanalgesia in 1964 is now presented as a book. In our time of rapid communication and short-lived theories, much of the impact of a symposium like this is lost by a two-year delay in publication.

W.E.S.

PARENTERAL NUTRITION (PARENTERALE ERNAEHRUNG). Edited by K. LANG, R. FREY, and M. HALMAGYI. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer Verlag. 1966. Pp. 156. DM 19.60.

THE SIXTH VOLUME of the series "Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation" published by Springer presents twenty papers dealing with the theoretical and practical aspects of parenteral nutrition, i.e., the intravenous administration of carbohydrates and amino acid solutions and fat emulsions. Clinicians, physiologists and biochemists from several German universities, and guests from France, Switzerland, the Scandinavian countries, and Australia contributed theoretical knowledge and practical experience to this aspect of patient care. The individual chapters are well written and are supplemented by an up-to-date bibliography; they contain much valuable information on the caloric requirements and methods for managing the nutrition of the seriously ill patient, particularly during the postoperative period. To the anaesthetist interested in intensive patient care the problem of maintaining caloric balance in the absence of gastro-intestinal function is of considerable interest and great practical importance. The addition of an index would have enhanced the value of this little book, and English summaries at the end of each chapter would have given it considerable appeal to North American anaesthetists.

W.E.S.