

BOOK REVIEWS

RECENT ADVANCES ON PAIN: PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND CLINICAL ASPECTS. Edited by JOHN J. BONICA, M.D., PAOLO PROCACCI, M.D., and CARLO A. PAGNI, M.D. Springfield, Illinois, Charles C. Thomas. Price \$19.75.

THIS MONOGRAPH is an outcome of the International Symposium on RECENT ADVANCES ON PAIN PATHOPHYSIOLOGY AND CLINICS held in Florence, Italy during April, 1972. Increasing interest in the problems of chronic pain has flourished over the past two decades, and considerable advances have been made in its understanding. However, the present level of knowledge is still very incomplete.

The book is loosely organized into two aspects of chronic pain: recent advances in the pathophysiologic mechanisms of pain, and reviews of many of the present modes of treatment of chronic pain. Such a wide variety of information is presented that it is difficult to recommend any particular chapters as being outstanding. The chapter on the physiologic mechanism of pain production and relief presents a good review of the possible disturbances which may occur within the afferent nerves and spinal cord, with particular emphasis on the gate theory of pain transmission. The chapter on operant conditioning describes very well the objectives and methods of this form of behaviour modification, but as the authors acknowledge, much work must yet be done before the technique can be used with confidence in carefully selected cases.

As such, the monograph accomplishes what its title suggests. It discusses recent advances in the understanding of chronic pain, a major economic and medical problem. However, its detailed presentation of relatively isolated topics is such that it cannot be recommended as an introductory text for those attempting to understand the overall nature and complexity of pain. Its value is principally to those persons who already have a thorough knowledge of the intricacies of this subject.

D.McQ.

PHYSICS APPLIED TO ANAESTHESIA. By D.W. HILL (2nd Edition). Toronto, Butterworth & Co. (Canada) Ltd. 1975.

THE FIRST EDITION of Dr. Hill's excellent book was published in 1972 and in that interval has become recognized as a most useful contribution to the library of the trainee anaesthetist and the practising specialist.

The present edition has been updated and very largely rewritten. Additional material has been added and in particular the discussion of computers and their use has been considerably expanded. Units of measurement have been converted to the international system (SI units) in most instances.

The book has increased slightly in size, but much of this increase is more apparent than real since a change in the size of the type and the consequent reduction of the number of words per page clearly accounts for twenty per cent of any such increase.

This is an authoritative and useful volume, and is highly recommended.

R.A.G.

KLINIKTASCHENBÜCHER. BELZ, G.G.; STAUCH, M., Universität Ulm. *Notfall EKG-Fibel.* With a contribution by ARNEFELD, F.W. Figs. 40, VIII, pp. 92, 1975. Soft cover. DM 16, 80; U.S. \$7.30. ISBN 3-540-07342-6.

THIS LITTLE VOLUME is intended to be carried in the pocket to assist the average physician in interpreting electrocardiographic tracings in an emergency, to assess their significance

and assist in the treatment, if any. In fulfilment of this aim the left-hand pages show representative electrocardiograms arranged in logical sequence while the corresponding right-hand pages describe in synoptic form the particular abnormality illustrated under such headings as definition, characteristics of the tracing, whether the particular abnormality is acutely dangerous, whether it is the precursor of more sinister disturbances and finally the recommended emergency treatment, if any. This main portion of the book is followed by a review of therapy and a description of a routine program of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

This is a nicely produced little booklet and to those faced with emergency conditions it could be of value provided the physician has pre-existing knowledge of the interpretation of the electrocardiogram, so that he can find expeditiously the appropriate pages in the book which incidentally is written in German throughout.

G.M.W.

ANAESTHESIOLOGY AND RESUSCITATION/ANAESTHESIOLOGIE UND WIEDERBELEBUNG/ANESTHÉSIOLOGIE ET RÉANIMATION. Editors: FREY, R., KERN, F., and MAYRHOFER, O. Managing Editor: BERGMANN, H. Vol. 88: *Beeinflussung gestörter Thrombozytenfunktion durch Aspartate und postoperative Thromboseprophylaxe.* "Symposium on March 9, 1974 at Kettwig-Ruhr." Editor: SCHARA, J. Barmen Hospital, Wuppertal. Figs. 43, VIII, pp. 115, 1975. Soft cover. DM 28; U.S. \$12.10. ISBN 3-540-07323-X.

THIS LITTLE VOLUME in the series "Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation" is a verbatim account of a Symposium on the Effects of Aspartate on deranged function of thrombocytes and its relationship to the prophylaxis of post-operative thrombo-embolism. The book consists of seven papers by different authors, each followed by comments from the floor and concludes with a round table discussion. The subject matter is somewhat of peripheral interest to most anaesthetists. The book is written in German throughout and there are no summaries in English.

G.M.W.

THE HUMAN LARYNX: A FUNCTIONAL STUDY. By B. RAYMOND FINK. New York, Raven Press, 1975. Price \$14.00.

THIS IS A SUPERB SCHOLARLY REVIEW of the structure and function of the human larynx. The author includes a fascinating description of the history of ideas about the larynx, its evolution, and a detailed analysis of the function of the organ as a whole and of its component parts. The book is a joy to read, and should be read by all who have an interest in this unique human organ.

R.A.G.

ANESTHESIOLOGY AND THE UNIVERSITY. By NICHOLAS M. GREENE, M.D. Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott Company, 1975.

IN THIS DISSERTATION, Dr. Greene discusses the case for anesthesiology as a professional and academic discipline within the University Medical School. In introducing the subject, he discusses at some length the historical circumstances which have mitigated against the recognition of anaesthesiology as a separate and special discipline worthy of a place in the Medical School. Many of these circumstances are more relevant to the situation in the United States of America and certain countries in Europe than to Canada, the United Kingdom, and to those other parts of the world where the British tradition in medicine has been strong.

Dr. Greene makes the point that where service demands for anaesthesia are permitted to become the one and only activity of the anaesthesiologist, that the place of the specialty in academia may in fact be in doubt. To qualify as an academic discipline, anaesthesiology must contribute to the development of new knowledge, and to the teaching of medical students. Dr. Greene makes an excellent case for the place of anaesthesiology as an intellectual discipline drawing together a wide spectrum of basic and clinical disciplines in medicine.

This volume is useful reading for all anaesthetists, and is required reading for all individuals in medical schools involved in the consideration and development of curriculum.

R.A.G.