

BOOK REVIEWS

RECENT ADVANCES IN ANAESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA. By C. LANGTON HEWER and J. ALFRED LEE. Eighth edition. London: J. & A. Churchill Ltd.; Toronto: British Book Service. 1957. \$6.80.

Hewer's *Recent Advances* has long been one of the standard textbooks in anaesthesia in the English-speaking world. Previous editions have had a reputation as a primary textbook. The present edition no longer deals with elementary procedures and principles, but concentrates on important aspects of recent changes in concepts and techniques in the field of anaesthesia. This work represents a monumental effort in examining the recent literature, and the authors are to be congratulated on their success in presenting a vast amount of information in a relatively small volume. This book is most highly recommended for all who are interested in keeping abreast of current developments in anaesthesia.

R.A.G.

MORPHINE AND ALLIED DRUGS. By A. K. REYNOLDS and L. O. RANDALL. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 1957. \$10.00.

The authors have gathered material from a vast number of sources to present to clinician and laboratory investigator the reliable information about morphine and allied drugs. This is no biased account, for the reports of clinic and laboratory are often conflicting, and the wide species variation to these compounds is particularly noticeable as their effects on humans, dogs, cats, guinea pigs and many other animals are mentioned.

There are comparisons between morphine and other drugs with particular reference to tolerance, addiction and analgesic potency.

The chapters on morphine, meperidine, alphaprodine, the morphinan series, and the antagonists to analgesics are of interest to anaesthetists. The references to chemical structure are conveniently illustrated, and, with the orderly presentation of the various drugs, aid in the understanding of the theory of action of the compounds proposed at the end.

There is no doubt that there is still much to be discovered in this field and that the present antagonists leave much to be desired.

S.A.F.

MUSCLE RELAXANTS IN ANESTHESIOLOGY. By FRANCIS F. FOLDES. Toronto: Ryerson Press. \$6.00.

Dr. Folds has written a book which will surely become most popular with the practising anaesthetist and with the examination candidate

Primarily a review of the practical and theoretical aspects of the problems related to the muscle relaxants, this book also gives a working account of modern balanced anaesthesia.

References are given in such number that an index of authors' names is included, making the bibliography all the more useful.

Dr. Foldes champions assisted respiration and suggests that the commonly used technique of controlled respiration is the source of many of the problems arising in cases in which relaxants have been used. He selects a suxamethonium drip as the method of choice in a wide range of instances but, in addition, describes techniques utilizing other agents. It is interesting to note that somewhat low total gas flows are recommended and that the routine use of atropine prior to edrephonium is suggested.

This book may be strongly recommended as an easily readable, reliable survey of the subject.

H.B.F.