Discussion of each drug thereafter is similarly organized into chemistry and pharmacokinetics, pharmacologic actions, and clinical practice. Of these sections, that on neurolept anesthesia is rather short and less detailed than the others. However, it does provide a useful resume of this technique, and includes a welcome denigration of pre-mixed preparations. The opening historical section was also too brief for the reviewer's satisfaction.

The pertinent literature is extensively and critically reviewed, and considerable thought has clearly been given to fitting together the pieces of each jigsaw in a logical fashion. This has been achieved in various ways, but the text always remains eminently readable and the progression of ideas clear and succinct. Most impressive is the consistent way in which theory has been effectively married to clinical practice. This clearly reflects the considerable experience of the authors in this field. Cross-referencing between different parts of the book is good. Almost all facts and figures mentioned are extensively referenced: e.g., the chapter on effects of barbiturates on the body is followed by almost three hundred references. This represents a survey of the literature on intravenous anaesthesia up to and including 1973 that is unsurpassed.

Practice on both sides of the Atlantic has been reflected throughout. American anesthesiologists will find the sections on sedatives and ergoloids of particular theoretical interest and will, no doubt, regret the present lack of these useful agents in their clinical armamentarium.

The book is nicely laid out, with good subtitling and an adequate index, making for quick reference. Diagrams are clear and with few exceptions well captioned. Typographical and grammatical errors are refreshingly rare.

This monograph, with its wealth of information, can be highly recommended not only for departmental libraries but also for the personal use of every practising anesthesiologist.

F. MICHAEL DAVIS, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology Harborview Medical Center Seattle, Washington 98104


The purpose of this book is to clear up some of the myths surrounding acupuncture, and to give an overall background of acupuncture practice for patients contemplating such treatment. This is a worthwhile aim inasmuch as health care delivery in the United States is sometimes complicated by the misconceptions that surround certain treatment modalities, and the ignorance of the public about the potentials and limitations of well-publicized therapies. Implicit in the text is an attempt to provide a guide for finger-pressure massage based on acupuncture theory.

At first glance, the reader develops the impression that this book was hurriedly prepared. There are many errors in spelling and grammar. Most lay readers will find parts of the text difficult because the authors have employed sophisticated medical terminology. Excellent interpretations and definitions of terms are provided at times, but