
The author is a well-known pediatrician who was formerly Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Kansas and Yale University. He is eminently qualified to discuss fluid therapy, and during the past 20 years has written numerous articles dealing with this subject.

This authoritative scientific textbook contains 21 chapters which deal with every conceivable aspect of fluid therapy expressed in chemical terminology. The prime purpose of the author is to teach physicians to utilize scientific principles when prescribing fluids for their patients, regardless of age or general condition. The book is concise, well written and reasonably easy to understand. It is recommended reading for anesthesiologists, particularly those studying for board examinations, and would thus be a worth-while addition to all medical libraries and Anesthesiology Departments.

P. C. LUNDE, M.D.


This is the second edition of a monograph which was so popular that it required a second printing. The author has long studied the pharmacology of local anesthetics, and has worked with this drug for over a dozen years.

A brief history of the drug is followed by information regarding its chemical and physical properties. Two short chapters are devoted to the mechanism of action of local anesthetics. Potency, duration, sites of action, systemic and toxic effects are discussed. Actions on the heart, smooth muscle, striated muscle, and blood pressure are considered. New information is given on the metabolic breakdown and excretion of the drug.

A great mass of information is compressed into a small space, by utilizing numerous charts, graphs, and diagrams. The very extensive bibliography on local anesthetics would be useful as a starting point for a detailed study. The book is strongly recommended for pharmacologists and practicing anesthesiologists.

JAY JACOBY, M.D.


This little volume, written by a practicing anesthesiologist, deals primarily with the historical aspects of the discovery and clinical use of curare. In the first part, the author summarizes in an easily readable form, the story told in McIntyre's classical work on curare. In the second part, the story of curare is brought up-to-date and in the appendix a brief outline of other relaxant drugs is presented. There is an interesting chapter on anatomy and physiology of the neuromuscular junction. This is followed by brief discussions of anesthetic and other medical uses of curare.

It is regrettable that the author did not pay more attention to the compilation of the "Appendix." Mytolon and benzoquinonium, although one is the trade name and the other the generic name of the same compound, are listed as if they were two different agents. The classification of relaxant drugs is not systematic. It lists penta-, hexa- and decamethonium under "Bisquaternary Salts," then enumerates dimethyl d-tubocurarine, succinylcho- line, laudexium, etc., under separate headings as if these were not bisquaternary ammonium compounds and discusses Mylaxen and other agents under the heading of "Other Bisquaternary Compounds." The list of "Comparative Reviews of Relaxant Drugs" is incomplete, not up-to-date and "insular."

Despite the shortcomings of the "Appendix," those interested in the historical aspects of curare can spend a few pleasant hours in reading this monograph.

FRANCIS F. FOLDES, M.D.