physiology, clinical measurement, sources of error in clinical determination, factors which affect its level, normal values under varying conditions, and diagnostic applications of measurements of arterial pressure. The volume concludes with a page of closing remarks that re-echo the gist of the Preface, and an excellent bibliography that is divided into sections by subheadings for easy reference.

This book is aptly described as a primer, and most anesthetists know (or should know) the material contained therein. It will, however, prove to be an excellent sourcebook for those who wish to pursue the subject of blood pressure in detail.

David M. Little, Jr., M.D.

Differentiation Between Normal and Abnormal in Electrocardiography. By Ernest Simsonson, M.D., Professor of Physiological Hygiene, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Consultant in Electrocardiography at Mt. Sinai Hospital and Veterans Administration Hospital, Minneapolis. Cloth, $13.50. Pp. 328, with 71 figures and 71 tables. C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1961.

As a source of information for the advanced electrocardiographer, this book is an excellent addition. The abnormal electrocardiography presentations are elucidatingly described and the mechanisms discussed.

For the anesthesiologist, it is rather advanced and could only be used as an occasional reference.

Vincent L. Collins, M.D.


This book is a relatively brief reference book of 88 pages. It contains an historical review, an outline of techniques, some useful related information, and a bibliography. The style is direct, it somewhat repetitive. One would have enjoyed a more critical approach to the literature discussed and more precise details of technical procedures. For these the readers will need to consult the current literature.

This is an important and rapidly advancing field. To anesthesiologists interested in the newborn or obstetrical anesthesia this book will serve as a useful introduction.

1. S. James, M.D.


This book was written to provide a foundation in medical hypnosis for attorneys, physicians and informed laymen. It contains an urgent plea for widespread acceptance and use of medical hypnosis in the field of law. A strong indictment is made against the use of hypnosis by stage hypnotists and other entertainers. Stage hypnosis was outlawed in England in 1952.

An excellent analysis of the psychokiller is made. A recent murder is discussed to illustrate the author's belief that the verdict of first degree murder was erroneous because the subject was mentally ill, as revealed by psychiatric analysis and examinations by both psychiatrist and medical hypnotist. There is a chapter on hypnosis and crime, and another on winning cases through hypnosis. One section deals with improving faulty memory through hypnosis and memory development. In discussing hypnosis and law enforcement the author emphasizes the value of hypnosis as it relates to safety in automobile driving, other transportation and safety training. A brief dissertation on international law and hypnosis is rich in content on such subjects as interrogation of prisoners, brain washing and "Powerization" (the particular type of hypnotic brain washing imposed on V-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers).
The final chapter deals with mass hypnosis and reveals how world leaders are able to shape destinies of countries by means of mass suggestion.

The author convincingly pleads the cause of medical hypnosis and makes a strong case for more widespread use of this art and science in the field of law. He feels that "even though crime has kept up with the jet age, its prevention has advanced very little farther than the model T Ford." It is apparent that a monumental overhaul of the judicial process is necessary in the field of criminal law.

This book is recommended to all members of the medical, dental and legal professions, and should be of particular interest to anesthesiologists who may find hypnosis of value in their field of medical practice.

FRANK M. GRAEVE, M.D.


The stated purpose of this monograph is to provide a compendium of available information concerning the problems of coma. The subject of coma is handled by a definition of the state, and a discussion of the mechanisms of consciousness. Following this the various causes of coma are dissected and presented in great detail. This appears to be a very thorough handling and instructive classification of causes of coma. Information presented is well supported by a large and thorough bibliography. Illustrations are few and are graphic in type. There are several tables of data.

This book contains a large amount of information concerning the biochemistry and physiology of the brain. To this reviewer it appears to be deficient in the coverage of associated effects of coma on the cardiovascular, respiratory, and autonomic nervous systems, etc. The section on therapy seems inappropriately short and not as well supported as the remainder of the book.

This book should be of value primarily to anesthesiology teaching programs and those interested more profoundly in the areas of coma and altered cerebral physiology.

WILLIAM K. HAMILTON, M.D.


This small book presents a survey of drug addiction as a medical problem. The first chapter offers a perspective on drug addiction. The author then discusses the relationship of drug addiction to crime. He states that the role of addiction in causing crimes is much less than is generally believed, in fact "the impact of drug addiction on major crimes is so slight that it is imperceptible in statistics." This popular misconception is in his opinion detrimental to a rational approach to solution of the problem.

The remainder of the book deals with the types and characteristics of addicts, causes of addiction, effects upon health of addicts, and treatment of addiction.

The physical make-up of the book as to cover, quality of paper, and type is excellent. This book is of interest to anesthesiologists only as a source of information.

JULIA G. ABROWOOD, M.D.


Abstracts of 250 articles published in late 1961 and early 1962 are included in the standard fashion employed by Dr. Lanza and Miss McQuillen for the last several years. With a lack of selectivity, the authors again manage to embrace almost every article published in the world in which the word "anesthesia" is used or inferred. Rarely does an abstract stimulate this reviewer to seek out the original unabridged version.

J. GERARD CONLISE, M.D.