yond the narrow limits of the pharmacology of his drugs and the cardio-pulmonary physiology which immediately bound his manipulations.

In this age of multiple authorship of textbooks, this volume stands as eloquent evidence of the advantages of single authorship—cohesive development of the subject, even style, concise summaries of essentials, and a clearness of expression obtainable only from a proud and talented author.

Duncan A. Holaday, M.D.


This book, previous editions of which have served many generations of medical students in German-speaking universities, fulfills its purpose as a textbook. The author of the 43-page chapter on anesthesia is Dr. R. Frey, Associate Professor and Director of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Heidelberg. This chapter is quite complete and is adequate for the graduating medical student. It may also serve as a teaching guide for lecturing to personnel capable of understanding some German. The style is easy to read and understand. The author's statements are accurate. This book, like previous editions, will undoubtedly be the outstanding textbook of surgery in many German universities.

Franz Schubert, M.D.


The author is the anesthetist in charge of the surgical clinic of the German Workers Health Insurance System. This monograph is an outline of anesthesiology intended primarily for the part-time anesthesiologist and those training for the specialty. Simplicity of presentation and practical applicability have been emphasized throughout. After a brief introduction, the various forms of anesthesia are discussed in individual chapters. While a separate chapter deals with the use of ataractic drugs in "potentiated anesthesia," regional, epidural or subarachnoid blocks are hardly mentioned. Subsequent chapters deal with the stages of anesthesia; respiratory and circulatory physiology related to anesthesia; preparation of the patient for anesthesia; pharmacology of anesthetic agents and other drugs used in anesthesiology; the management of shock; the influence of pathological changes of the various organs on the choice and management of anesthesia; anesthesia for brain, thoracic, abdominal, traumatic, gynecological, oral, ear, nose and throat, ophthalmological surgery and obstetrics. Pediatric and geriatric anesthesia, as well as the anesthetic management of various diagnostic procedures, are also discussed in separate sections. For the American anesthesiologist, this little book gives an interesting insight into what are considered to be the most important aspects of modern anesthesiology by one of its outstanding German representatives. Drugs are not mentioned by their generic names, but by their proprietary names, which are meaningless to the American reader.

Francis F. Foldes, M.D.


A knowledge of certain subjects, intimately concerned with a patient's condition, before, during and after anesthesia, is vital to any consultant in anesthesiology. One of these subjects is electrocardiography. It is unreasonable to expect the anesthesiologist's knowledge on this subject to equal that of the cardiologist; however, he should be capable of operating an electrocardiograph and diagnosing the changes in the electrocardiogram which may occur during anesthesia.

This booklet begins with four short chapters on the genesis, principles and techniques, procedure in reading, and table of characteristics of the normal electrocardiogram. The re-
remainder is devoted to examples and interpretations of abnormal cardiograms. This publication is recommended to anesthesiologists as a short, easily understood and well-presented booklet.

RAYMOND F. COURTIN, M.D.

Practical Blood Transfusion. By J. D. JAMES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Director, North London Blood Transfusion Service. Foreword by P. L. MOLLISON, M.D., F.R.C.P., Director, Medical Research Council’s Blood Transfusion Research Unit, Lecturer in the Department of Medicine, Post-Graduate Medical School of London. Cloth, $4.50. Pp. 187, with 15 figures and 7 plates. Published by Charles C Thomas, Publishers, Springfield, Illinois; Blackwell Scientific Publications Limited, Oxford; and Ryerson Press, Queen Street West, Toronto 2, Canada, 1958.

Professional and technical personnel whose responsibilities include any aspect of blood transfusion will benefit by reading this delightfully-written, and well-named textbook. The author’s considerable interest and experience are readily apparent, and include the organization of a hospital blood bank, special problems in open-heart surgery, contamination of blood, and the legal aspects of transfusion work.

Abundant detail is furnished in regard to supplies, equipment, necessary records, and safeguards in establishing a blood bank. Antigenic factors in transfusion are outlined and explained, and transfusion reactions are thoroughly discussed. The author states (page 118), “When transfusing under anaesthesia it should be borne in mind that reactions would not be detected and that this risk is a definite one.” The reviewer feels that persistent oozing during transfusion under anaesthesia is generally considered, in the United States, to be a warning of a serious reaction.

The author emphasizes contamination of blood for transfusion, chiefly from the standpoint of preventive precautions, and the seriousness of giving contaminated blood. He might well, in future editions, point out the value of examining all blood for hemolysis, and when this is present, the wisdom of cultures to detect bacteria.

The completeness of this small textbook may be exemplified by the inclusion, in about four pages, of the present status of plasma substitutes. Among the criteria for an “ideal” substitute, however, the advantage of noninterference with cross-matching techniques is not included.

Anesthesiologists will find this book to be a useful addition to their professional libraries.

JOHN R. LINCOLN, M.D.


This excellent publication is based upon the second edition of Professor Terracol’s original text “Les Maladies de L’Esophage” which appeared in 1951. Dr. Sweet has translated, revised and rearranged the original volume and has rewritten some of the sections so as to consolidate scattered material and bring the publication up-to-date. This book consists of 29 chapters, including, besides an exhaustive review of diseases and injuries of the esophagus and their treatment, several chapters on anatomy, physiology and methods of diagnosis, including equipment and techniques for their employment. An entirely new section on esophageal substitution has been added, as well as much new material on surgical treatment. Eighty-five of the 408 excellent illustrations in the present volume are new. At the back of this book appears an appendix dealing with diets and tube feedings; a voluminous bibliography arranged according to chapters, with division into sub-headings for the various subjects, and an adequate index. While there is only limited discussion of specific anesthetic management scattered throughout this book, in no other single publication can the anesthesiologist find such a wealth of valuable information regarding diseases and injury of the esophagus and their general management.

The printing, binding and general format of this timely volume are excellent. This book is unreservedly recommended for both under-