The 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. COURTN, 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 116), "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 anesthesia 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-
graduate and graduate medical students, as well as for any physician dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of lesions of the esophagus.

Huberta M. Livingstone, M.D.


The author is the Physician in Charge of the Myasthenia Gravis Clinic of the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, and Vice-Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation, Inc. This book is the first English language monograph on myasthenia gravis. It was written on the basis of many years of experience with several hundred myasthenic patients by an individual who is a recognized international authority in that field. The book is primarily intended for practicing physicians interested in the diagnosis and treatment of myasthenia gravis, but it will also satisfy the need of medical students who desire to obtain more information on myasthenia gravis than that available in textbooks of medicine or neurology. The emphasis throughout has been placed on practical considerations in the diagnosis and treatment of myasthenia. However, in the chapters on pathology and physiology, there is an adequate summary of the present day knowledge in the basic sciences related to myasthenia gravis. After a brief history, the physiology of neuromuscular transmission and the pathological aspects of myasthenia gravis are considered. In the ensuing chapters, diagnosis, differential diagnosis and management are discussed. Besides the use of anticholinesterases and other drugs, the endocrine, roentgenographic and surgical treatment of the disease are also reviewed. A special section deals with the treatment of myasthenic and cholinergic crisis. The chapter on the care of the myasthenic patient undergoing surgery includes a discussion on the choice and management of anesthesia and is especially valuable for anesthesiologists. There are separate chapters on the psychotherapy of myasthenia, the obstetrical management of the myasthenic patient and the treatment of neonatal and juvenile myasthenia.

This book is well-written and illustrated. The style is simple and easily understandable. There is a separate bibliography at the end of each chapter in which the references are compiled in the order in which they appear in the text. There is a subject index at the end of the book, but no author’s index. It is evident that the author had at his finger tips the information necessary for a compilation of such a monograph. His statements are reliable and in agreement with the presently accepted concepts. It is the reviewer’s opinion that alphabetically arranged references at the end of this book, and an author’s index would increase the usefulness of the book, especially for those who are conducting research. Since the anesthetic management of myasthenic patients may present considerable difficulty, the anesthesiologist should be well versed in the diagnosis and treatment of this disease. Since there is no other available source where so much information can be obtained, this book is a worthwhile addition, not only to the libraries of anesthesia departments where residents are being trained, but also to the bookshelf of the individual anesthesiologist.

Francis F. Foldes, M.D.


In the development of new drugs the final goal is clinical utility. The problems of testing for effectiveness and the problems of side reactions must be evaluated. This symposium approaches the subject of testing and clinical screening from a basic viewpoint. Systemic toxicity testing, mechanics of allergic response, and determination of efficacy are presented. The scope of this publication is limited, and is of most interest to those anesthesiologists engaged in pharmacological investigations.

Vincent J. Collins, M.D.