requirements of most medical journals. The illustrations are few but well done. The format of the book is above criticism by this reviewer.

DOUGLAS W. EASTWOOD, M.D.


This monograph is an adaptation of material presented to residents beginning anesthesiology at the Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. It should find a ready audience also with medical students, surgical interns and other personnel at the beginning of their exposure to anesthetic practice.

This manual attempts to cover a rather wide area of interest, including basic respiratory and cardiovascular physiology, anatomy of the upper respiratory tract, physical laws pertaining to gases and vapors, as well as descriptions of standard techniques of practice. The sections on respiratory physiology are particularly well done. The method of presentation is somewhat didactic, which may be necessary in such a broad coverage.

Throughout the volume one finds many pearls of wisdom tucked in here and there. For example, on page 30, "Controlled respiration is useful to obtain better muscular relaxation." Again on page 39, "the respiration should be assisted at all times even when the tidal volume appears normal." These little tokens of modern anesthetic practice are refreshing.

One can find only a few points to criticize constructively in the text. One wonders why the nonrebreathing technique is omitted in the list of anesthetic methods on page 8. In the chapter on premedication, chlorpromazine is recommended for preoperative use. Should a drug whose use is controversial as well as new in anesthesia be recommended to beginners, and if so, why should an old-timer like chloral hydrate be omitted and a newcomer like Phenergan ignored? The statement is made on page 62 that belladonna drugs do not reverse the hypotension secondary to stimulation of the carotid sinus reflex. The reviewer must disagree with this statement, on the basis of numerous personal experiences.

Inconsistency regarding the pulse rate when the celiac plexus reflex is activated is noted on pages 63 and 108. In the section on circulatory complications of general anesthesia, it is unfortunate that hemolytic transfusion reactions were not mentioned as a cause of tachycardia and hypotension. The chapter on local anesthesia might be more complete if a section had been added concerning topical application of anesthetic drugs.

The text is clear and the sections well organized. To the beginner in anesthesia, this volume will lend needed perspective to the performance of his duties.

C. R. STEPHEN, M.D.


This is an interesting little book written for the layman. The author is a surgeon who has compiled the questions asked by his patients, and answered them in a simple and easily readable manner. Reading this book undoubtedly gives the patient a much greater insight into common surgical conditions and hospital experiences. Much of the book is written in the narrative style, utilizing conversation between the patient and the surgeon or other individuals involved.