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 30, “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 anesthesiology 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 anesthesiology, 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.
The book begins with a chapter on the history of surgery and then goes on to discuss preoperative preparation and the events in the operating room and following the operation. A separate chapter explains special hospital procedures, and other chapters explain such common conditions as appendicitis, hernia, gall stones, varicose veins, colostomy, mastectomy, hemorrhoidectomy, hysterectomy, amputation, and cancer. The book ends with a chapter on the qualifications of surgeons and how one might select a surgeon or reassure himself about the surgeon’s ability or stature. A concluding chapter is entitled “What Can the Patient Contribute?” This emphasizes the need for the patient to provide a good history, to cooperate with the physician, to select a good surgeon and then place his entire confidence in this individual, and concludes with the sage advice, “Stay thin and have courage.”

The fourth chapter in the book is of particular interest to anesthesiologists in that an effort is made to explain the various kinds of anesthesia, what they may be used for, what considerations are involved in the selection of one type or another, what might be expected with the use of the various types, and then answers a number of questions which are commonly asked by patients, such as, Will I be sure that I will be unconscious before the operation starts? Will I be sure the anesthetic will work? Will I be sick to my stomach? The author takes the trouble to explain the qualifications of the anesthesiologist and his importance in the successful outcome of a surgical procedure. Considering the fact that the explanation of anesthesiology is only one chapter in a small book written in very simple style, there is remarkably satisfactory handling of the material.

Although the mere recital of the subject matter makes one think that justice could not be done in a small work for laymen, the author has done a remarkably good job of explaining many of the problems which face the surgical patient. Reading this book before coming to the hospital would do much to reduce fear and promote understanding.


Most anesthesiologists would agree that proper psychological preparation of the patient is a major factor in successful management of anesthesia in children. The authors of this book have produced an excellent illustration of how this preparation can be accomplished in the form of an attractive book children will enjoy. The story recounts in detail the experiences of a little girl from the time the pediatrician decides her tonsils should be removed until she returns from the hospital after a happy sojourn there. Physical examination, laboratory procedures, and anesthesia are described and explained in terms and vocabulary suitable for children. The book is illustrated by many attractive drawings.

This little volume should find a place in the office of the anesthesiologist and pediatrician and would be a big help in the home of any child who is to experience anesthesia and surgery.

**Julia Arrowood, M.D.**