

BOOK REVIEW

Clinical Anesthesia. By JOHN S. LUNDY, M.D., Head of Section on Anesthesia, the Mayo Clinic; Professor of Anesthesia, the Mayo Foundation, University of Minnesota. 771 pages with 266 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1942. Price \$9.00.

In the first chapter, Choice of Anesthetic Agents and Methods, there is recorded a unique and unusual tabulation of anesthetic agents and methods, according to the Various Surgical Procedures, grouped according to (1) anatomical locations, (2) both general physical and diseased conditions pre-existing and (3) the relationship between the degrees of preanesthetic sedation and the pharmacologic effect expected by each. The apparent specificity of the recommendations is moderated somewhat by comments in the text.

Almost 200 pages are devoted to regional and spinal anesthesia. The author's enthusiasm for this type of anesthesia, so important especially in times of combat injuries, is clearly reflected by the information included here. He is fair and frank, stating which techniques may produce some pain during the injection, which of them are difficult to perform, or may provide varying percentages of disappointing results in a series of applications. It is also plainly stated when and what dangers of a serious nature are involved. This section will most likely be consulted and reconsulted for years to come by interested physicians, and it alone should justify making the book available for reference.

Forty-five pages are required for the

consideration of spinal anesthesia, in which the factors for the safe application of this method in his hands are recounted. Details are stressed. Dosages and concentrations are fully set forth. The problem of complications is considered frankly and impartially. The author's dislike for drugs providing a longer duration of action than does procaine is reflected by an almost complete disregard for references to them in the text.

A chapter is included on general information concerning equipment, drugs, operating room set-ups, etc. This is well written, and contains material of definite value, some of it difficult to acquire elsewhere in the literature on anesthesia.

Chapters then follow on preliminary considerations of general anesthesia, stages and signs of general anesthesia, one each on preoperative and postoperative Care and Medication when general anesthesia is employed, two chapters on anesthetic agents commonly used for general anesthesia, gaseous agents used for support of respiratory function and chapters on endotracheal and intrapharyngeal anesthesia. The discussion on agents is about as complete as is possible in a book on clinical anesthesia. But little space is given to the closed carbon dioxide absorption technic. Endotracheal anesthesia is adequately considered.

Chapters on both general anesthesia in dentistry and obstetrics follow. The section on intravenous anesthesia of about 50 pages, as would be expected, is well done and comprehensive. The conservative tone of the latter chapter is refreshing, and if the suggestions contained therein are applied, its im-

proper use should not be feared. Consideration of Rectal and Oral Instillation occupies the amount of space consistent with the present, apparently decreasing use of these methods. "Balanced anesthesia," coined by the author, is discussed in two short paragraphs.

The author has had an extensive experience with diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic nerve blocks, and, while the chapter on anesthesia for non-surgical conditions is valuable, this reviewer regrets that more space was not devoted to it by one whose knowledge of the subject is unquestioned. This aspect of the specialty of anesthesiology is believed by many to be of much greater importance than is now realized.

Venipuncture, intravenous therapy, resuscitation, records, statistics of the Mayo Clinic for 17 years, chemistry of anesthetic agents, a chronological table, conversion tables of weights and measures and an appendix devoted to a combination outfit for analysis of oxygen and carbon dioxide in oxygen tents conclude the work. The chronological table is another unique idea, providing the dates in sequence of events which have contributed to the field of anesthesiology.

A book of this type invariably elicits much discussion. Various classifications of textbooks have been cited by others, among which are those that are essentially reference books, those based on little clinical experience, but a wide search for and many "borrowings" from current and older literature and books based almost entirely upon personal experiences. It appears to this reviewer that *Clinical Anesthesia* is essentially the recorded personal impressions of a clinician who has had wide and varied experience, most of which has been gained at a decidedly active and progressive institution. References to literature are not too numerous; the work is not over-illustrated. Some authorities may, and most likely will, believe debatable certain statements made. It is difficult, however, to refute the impressions of an able clinician when his recordings are sincere and accurate, especially if the disputant has not had as wide a clinical experience from which to draw his beliefs. No one can refute the fact that few men living today have had access to the recorded information on more cases, or have had the opportunity to observe as many anesthetics as had the author.

HENRY S. RUTH, M.D.

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