MEDICINE FOR ANAESTHETISTS
By M. D. Vickers

The anesthetist must consider the many variables which effect the use of anesthetics in order to perform the art safely. Factors which have a profound effect on anesthetic management are the pre-existing medical conditions of the patient. The anesthetist must be able to accurately and carefully assess the physical status of the patient and then choose an anesthetic plan which will minimize the hazards to the patient. The anesthetist must have a thorough knowledge of medicine and medical problems with specific emphasis on the effect the problems may have on anesthetic management.

This book is designed to provide the anesthetist with a reference which specifically discusses medical problems and the effect these problems may have on the safe administration of anesthetics. Medicine has advanced dramatically with the growth of medical specialization. The degree of specialization and massive quantity of knowledge prevents the anesthetist from being an expert in every field, however, he must attempt to glean from these specialists that medical information that is pertinent to the art and science of anesthesia. The text provides a means for the anesthetist to keep up to date with voluminous amounts of new information and its application to anesthetic management.

The book was written primarily by anesthetists working in collaboration with physicians having expertise in the various specialties of medicine. The scope of the text covers the full range of medical problems, from the most common (including cardiovascular and pulmonary disorders, to genetic and nutritional disorders, which may effect anesthetic management. Typically, the chapters include discussion of the basic principles related to a particular organ system including anatomy and physiology. Discussion also includes the evaluation of the patient and the tests which may shed light on the condition of the patient. Information is also presented which the anesthetist may use to determine when the patient reaches the optimal condition to undergo a general anesthetic. The choice of anesthetics is covered as well as those problems which may occur during the course of the anesthetic and surgical experiences. Postoperative considerations are covered with specific suggestions given as to management and those problems which may occur in the recovery phase of treatment. In all, the text provides the anesthetist with extensive information and assistance in dealing with patients in compromised physical condition.

The text is a comprehensive presentation of the medicine the anesthetist must know to properly manage patients under anesthesia. The book has areas of duplication, however, the repetition allows for complete presentation of the medical problems in a clear, readable fashion and thus enhances the text. This book should be added to the library of anyone who administers anesthetics and should be kept close at hand for easy reference.

Gene Herman, D.M.D.

THE PREVENTION OF COMPLICATIONS IN DENTAL SURGERY, 2nd EDITION
By H. C. Killey and L. W. Kay
Churchill Livingstone, N.Y., 1977, 210 pp., paper cover, $11.00

In this second edition the authors have presented a survey of the potential complications which may occur in the dental office and the prevention of these complications. The text is designed to present the potential hazards and their prevention through anticipation without discussing threatment except with reference to complications requiring immediate action. It is not the intention of the authors to provide a textbook of operative procedures, therefore, specific details of techniques are omitted except as they constitute a potential hazard for the patient or operator. Where specific routines are outlined, they are presented only as a framework of safe treatment which a practitioner may utilize or modify to suit individual needs. The authors have included actual case histories from the Annual Report of the Medical Protection Society to emphasize that the potential dangers are not strictly theoretical.

The text covers situations arising while performing routine dental care and the potential hazards which may exist. The complications covered include equipment failure as well as complications arising from imprudent use of high-speed equipment. Also presented are those problems arising during impression techniques, root canal therapy, and the potential hazard of inhalation or ingestion of foreign bodies.
The potential complications arising during the performance of oral surgical procedures are also considered. The areas covered include misuse of surgical instruments, and problems related to post-operative complications such as hematoma, edema, hemorrhage, infection and pain. Hazards involving use of local anesthesia are also presented for consideration. The book continues by discussing those potential mishaps which may occur while utilizing out-patient general anesthetics with primary emphasis placed on the inhalation of foreign bodies either during or immediately after the conclusion of treatment.

In the hospital setting there are a multiplicity of problems which may occur that are peculiar to the hospital and the use of in-patient general anesthetics as well as the hospital operating room. The authors discuss the full range of potential problems and outline some basic guidelines which provide the foundation for safe management of the in-patient.

Another common potential complication in dental practice is those problems which arise from the use of drugs and medications. The most universally accepted complication is allergy, however, there are numerous additional complications to drug therapy which are important. Some problems included in the text are overdosage, drug induced jaundice, complications to the use of local anesthesia agents and those drug interactions which may influence general anesthesia. The authors include a very helpful section in this chapter which lists, in table form, numerous drug interactions which are pertinent to dental practice and present potential dangers.

The final chapter of the book discusses the ethical and dentolegal complications in the practice of dentistry. In this chapter members of the Medical Protection Society add valuable discussion and cautions. Emphasis is placed on the management of the patient as it relates to the legal aspects of practice and presents methods which may be utilized to avoid problems and malpractice actions. This chapter is very useful to the practitioner as it adds a different perspective to the potential complications in dental practice.

This text is designed to serve the graduate and postgraduate student and especially that individual who is embarking on his professional career. The book also serves the more experienced practitioner by providing a vehicle for the reassessment of current office procedures and a review of those hazards which may occur during the practice of dentistry.

Gene Herman, D.M.D.

MONHEIM'S LOCAL ANESTHESIA AND PAIN CONTROL IN DENTAL PRACTICE
C. Richard Bennett, editor

Now in its sixth edition, Monheim's Local Anesthesia and Pain Control in Dental Practice remains one of the classic texts in the field, an important library addition for both student and practitioner. Remarkably, this handy and concise guide has maintained its currency in the midst of rapid technical advance.

Although editor Bennett has modified his work but little since the last revision four years ago, the changes made add noticeably to the clarity and completeness of the book. The effort to update the section on local anesthetic solutions is evident as is an addendum to the chapter on complications dealing with the occasional aberrant neurologic response to medication. Clarification of size and age considerations has been incorporated into the pre-anesthetic evaluation portion of the text while the book's chapter on sterilization has been completely rewritten.

The vast remainder of Monheim's instructional guide remains unchanged. A thorough examination of the body's pain perception and modification system begins the text followed by a detailed anatomical discussion of the trigeminal nerve, perhaps more definitive in nature than that found in the more popular anatomy texts. The strongest segment of the book is that dealing with regional analgesia, local anesthetic administration. Some 43 diagrams and photographs accompany an in-depth description of the most rational and effective techniques of achieving local control of painful stimuli. Emphasis is also placed on pre-treatment patient evaluation (sample history and physical examination forms are included) and on the management of office emergencies. As dental practitioners expand their repertoire of analgesic techniques, the sections on conscious sedation and post-operative pain control will prove quite useful. And, with increasing numbers of medicolegal considerations, Dr. William H. L. Dornette's chapter on "Local Anesthesia and the Law" offers some welcome clarifications.

For over twenty years Monheim's Local Anesthesia and Pain Control in Dental Practice has functioned as a readily accessible reference work for the profession. Release of this new edition will hopefully bring this valuable book to the attention of many of our recent graduates as well as our more established colleagues.

George A. Schabes, D.D.S.