REVIEW


Although this little book contains no specific reference to anaesthetics in relation to blood-pressure, yet anaesthetists are so constantly concerned with blood-pressure variations that they may be interested to read this very detailed study. The author has original ideas, particularly concerning angina pectoris, of which he says "the prevalence of coronary symptoms has given rise to the opinion that angina pectoris is localised in the coronary circulation. We will now discard this hypothesis as it is less than helpful to further investigation. There is no known fact which would justify the assumption that angina pectoris is specifically a heart disease. On the contrary, all the evidence of pathological anatomy points towards it being a disorder of the whole circulation."

He describes two forms of arteriosclerosis with the second of which angina pectoris is concerned. "This is a disease in itself, a constitutional, systematic allergic primary affection of the smooth muscles, the sympathetic nerves and the connective tissue."

The arterial blood-pressure is discussed at great length and illustrations given of apparatus which the author uses and considers more accurate than most commonly employed methods of gauging blood-pressure. Whether one accepts all the author's conclusions or not his book is worthy of study for it is the outcome evidently of much investigation and of serious critical thought.