

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

CARDIAC ARREST

Cardiac Arrest and Resuscitation. By Hugh E. Stephenson, Jr., M.D. Pp. 378. 31 figures. South African price £5. 2s. 0d. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. 1958.

The author of this very excellent monograph is the Professor of Surgery at the Missouri School of Medicine, USA, and he has made a prolonged and extensive study of cardiac arrest and its treatment. As part of this investigation he established the Cardiac Arrest Registry and his conclusions are based on a study of over 1,700 cases of cardiac arrest from this registry, as well as on work done in the experimental laboratory. A bibliography covering 53 closely printed pages is included. The result is a book of the greatest value to all those who operate under general anaes-

thesia and to anaesthetists. Professor Stephenson also points out that cardiac arrest occurs during dental extractions and during special radiological procedures, and that in cardiac arrest from these causes a survival is the exception; so it would appear that the specialists concerned here should also be familiar with the contents of this book, and that they should at all times be prepared for this emergency.

The author points out that the number of deaths due to cardiac arrest in the USA exceeds those from poliomyelitis, multiple sclerosis, scarlet fever, typhoid and diphtheria together, and this clearly emphasizes how important this condition has become. It behoves every medical practitioner to make himself absolutely familiar with the management of this condition and there is no better way than to read this book.

D.J. du P.