

BOOK REVIEWS

Edward Lowenstein, M.D., Editor

1985 Yearbook of Critical Care Medicine. EDITED BY MARK C. ROGERS, M.D. Chicago, Yearbook Medical Publishers, 1985. Pages: 493. Price: \$42.95.

The 1985 Yearbook of Critical Care Medicine, edited by Mark C. Rogers and six colleagues at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, is the third edition of this series. Like its predecessors, the book is a compilation of abstracts and editorial comments on the related literature, in this case through September 1984. The format exposes the reader to information published in a wide variety of specialty journals (91 journals in 1985). This is uniquely advantageous in critical care medicine, where locating pertinent articles has been a major problem. The editorial comments vary in length and style, but are generally well reasoned and impartial. The text itself is readable and has few typographic errors (methyl premedication instead of methyl prednisolone on page 147 being a notable exception).

Of necessity there is an 8-month delay from the last citation to the publication date. This should not detract from the book's usefulness as a guide that directs the reader to important articles. As such I do not hesitate to recommend it to the critical care practitioner trying to keep abreast of a wide ranging discipline, or to residents and fellows who may benefit from some of the cautionary editorial comments about new therapy and technology. This book reflects the current literature, not basic concepts, and is not intended, nor should it be used, as an alternative to a textbook of critical care medicine.

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Cold Hearts: The Story of Hypothermia and the Pacemaker in Heart Surgery. BY W. G. BIGELOW. Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, 1984. Pages: 208. Price: \$19.95.

Dr. Bigelow relates a folksy, homespun story that makes research look like just plain fun and gives credit where it is due. He initially became interested in hypothermia when he had to amputate a young man's gangrenous fingers. He gives full credit to Dr. Gallie, his Professor of Surgery, "for fanning the tiny flushing flare of his initial interest in frostbite, and this encouragement resulted in 18 years of absorbed research on hypothermia" and also for showing his continued interest by urging him to review the English and foreign literature,

inviting him to lecture to the medical students on frostbite, and encouraging him to publish his results. Bigelow stresses that "endorsement of a new idea by an uncertain student is not enough; it may require repeated reinforcement, encouragement, sustained interest, and support." He also admits his good fortune in encountering superb teachers like Best, Grant, Ham, and Boy.

In addition to Dr. Gallie, two other men were central figures in his development: Dr. Trueta of Spain, whom he met during World War II, and who developed the revolutionary concept of using occlusive dressings and limb immobilization for treatment of orthopedic trauma patients, and Dr. Alfred Blalock, whom he observed performing heart surgery. He then realized the need for a silent bloodless field in heart surgery, which led him to the idea that if the entire body were cooled, metabolism reduced, and circulation stopped, the heart could be easily opened without the need for tubes and pumps!

After the year with Blalock, he returned to Canada to direct a research team exploring the physiology of general hypothermia and hibernation, and became proprietor of the world's first and only groundhog farm. He demonstrated for the first time that oxygen requirements decreased in an almost linear fashion with decreasing body temperature when shivering was prevented, and in the same year, he reported a surgical technique involving total body cooling for intracardiac surgery.

The cardiac pacemaker was also developed as a cold heart spin-off when he discovered that a "poke" of the cold heart would make it beat. He reported the first electrical pacemaker for continuous human use in 1950, the same year as his previous two contributions.

Other chapters concern heart surgery in the 1940s and 1950s when there were no recovery or intensive care units and sick patients were placed in oxygen tents; the evolution of the modern pacemaker; and the present and future role of hypothermia. In the final chapter, "Lessons and Reflections," he discusses creativity and hunches, moral courage, the significance of ego, and open-mindedness.

My only criticism of the book is its lack of an index. While it is intended for lay readers (particularly Canadians, who will surely feel national pride after reading it), it is valuable for reflecting on how the young and enthusiastic may be stimulated to develop their ideas. Those who would teach would do well to read this book.

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Title & Edition	Author/Editor	Publisher			
		Address, Name	Date	Pages	Price
Guidelines in Clinical Anesthesia	Peter Hutton Griselda Cooper	St. Louis Blackwell Scientific Publications	1985	403	\$32.95
Anaesthetic Management	M. J. Harrison R. M. Jones B. J. Pollard	Stoneham, MA Butterworths	1986	283	\$29.95