

## The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

**A Synopsis of Anaesthesia.** Seventh edition. By J. ALFRED LEE AND R. S. ATKINSON. Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins, 1973. Pages: 991. Price: \$23.25.

Twenty-six years and seven editions, some of them reprinted several times and translated into Spanish and Italian, attest to the enduring popularity of this British book. It continues to fulfill admirably the objective declared in the preface to the first edition: not to take the place of the larger textbooks of anesthesia and analgesia, but to summarize current teaching and practice, and to serve the student, the resident anesthetist, the practitioner, and the candidate studying for the Diploma in Anesthetics as a ready source of reference and a quick means of revision.

In 991 pages the authors deal with every aspect of general and regional anesthesia, including practically all significant developments of the last decade. In addition to the customary standard material, the book contains good historical notes on anesthesia; an excellent discussion on choice of anesthesia as influenced by type of operation, age and general condition of the patient; short sections on hypnosis, electrical anesthesia, anesthesia in abnormal environments, and care and sterilization of equipment. Particularly helpful are the many footnote references and the 66-page index, with approximately 6,000 entries.

All this makes Lee and Atkinson an excellent compendium for prospective Board examinees, a handy source of information for practicing anesthesiologists wanting to update their knowledge, and a starting point for a bibliographical search on almost any subject related to anesthesia. Medical students and residents too will find the book useful, but from their standpoint some subjects are given a disproportionately small amount of attention. The mechanism of buffer action is poorly explained. The respiratory system is allotted 22 pages but the cardiovascular only 4; chloroform 6 pages but enflurane only 13 lines.

These are minor criticisms, however, for a work offering such a compact wealth of material under one cover. It is to the authors' credit that in spite of the rather concise language, the text is easy to read and understand. Furthermore, the book is essentially free of typographic errors, no small feat when one considers that by rough estimate it contains around 240,000 words.

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**Fundamentals of Management for the Physician.** By FRANK MOYA. Springfield, Ill., Charles Thomas, 1974. Pp. 190. Price: \$9.50.

Nowadays, medical practice so often requires the physician to head a team of secretaries, aides, and technicians controlling a profession of expensive equipment, that training in management, administration, and the business side of life is necessary for efficient performance in any number of medical careers. Physicians in general, however, receive little or no formal training in fundamentals of managing people, professional and personal finances, and professional corporations.

A recent seminar sponsored by a management firm as a public service to physicians now greatly extends its sphere of usefulness through publication of its proceedings. The first part, concerning "Principles of Management," is one of the better portions of the book and will be especially useful to physician responsible for managing others in the office or professional group. Its themes are that successful management "accomplishes the objectives to the satisfaction at once of those served and of those rendering the service" and that "Leadership is the ability to influence the attitude, thinking and the behavior of other people."

Part II deals with "Fiscal Management." Brief and repetitious discussion of solo practice in the first two chapters is followed by three chapters of advice on the formation, benefits, and dissolution of corporations. The concluding panel discussion provides little additional factual information.

Part III considers "Basic Medical Economics." The opening chapter provocatively urges the need of planning for one's retirement: "No one plans to be old and poor, but 71 percent of all people past age sixty-five today in this country have only their Social Security income—nothing else!" Succeeding chapters discuss trusts and their advantages, tax planning, investment goals, and stocks and bonds. Others deal with federal wage salary regulations and techniques of billing and collection. Here there are important omissions: relative value fee schedules, third-party carriers, and billing arrangements in groups, partnerships, and corporations go unmentioned.

The final part, covering recruiting of the professional staff, lays undue emphasis on fringe benefits. After reading these chapters, the young physician might feel that the 19 listed fringe benefits are more important to his happiness than the professional satisfactions of practice in a group association. The discussion of funding in Chapter XVIII is confined to a single university and the chapter on malpractice is confined to describing the types of suits that arise, omitting such important

matters as premiums, insurance carriers, and how to protect one's professional and personal assets in the face of litigation. The appendix on sources of research support should be helpful to many.

In summary, this monograph assembles under one cover varied information that most physicians usually get only "via the grapevine" during their years of training and early practice. Some of the material lacks objectivity and documentation and should be read with the avocations of the authors in mind. Many of the contributing "experts" represent business professions and include insurance underwriters, investment counselors, lawyers, stock brokers, professional business managers, and certified public accountants. Computer billing services are also represented. The message is that the wise physician, who already relies on a bevy of medical specialists in his practice of medicine, should surround himself with a similar bevy of consultants in the management of his business affairs.

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**Monheim's—General Anesthesia in Dental Practice.** BY C. RICHARD BENNETT. St. Louis, C. V. Mosby, 1974. Fourth edition. Pages: 446. Price: \$16.00.

**Monheim's—Local Anesthesia and Pain Control in Dental Practice.** BY C. RICHARD BENNETT. St. Louis, C. V. Mosby, 1974. Fifth edition. Pages: 338. Price: \$14.50.

**Conscious-Sedation in Dental Practice.** BY C. RICHARD BENNETT. St. Louis, C. V. Mosby, 1974. Pages: 212. Price: \$15.00.

The first revision of the textbook written by the late Dr. Leonard M. Monheim maintains its position as one of the better introductory texts for residents, surgeons, and dental practitioners interested in the fundamentals of general anesthesia. It now includes descriptions of the newer anesthetic agents, neurolept anesthesia-analgesia, and dissociative anesthesia. A chapter on Dental Anesthesia and the Law by Dornette urges that the dentist adequately trained in anesthesiology should be regarded as a member of the general operating theater team instead of restricted to office outpatient anesthesia practice, and there is also a useful discussion of dental procedures in pediatric patients requiring endotracheal intubation, presented by March. This method is becoming commonplace as the demand for outpatient surgery expands.

It is surprising that this textbook lacks any reference to work published in the past five years, delineating the cardiovascular effects of general anesthesia in the dental outpatient; one may also criticize the retention of illustrations of outmoded equipment and techniques such as antecubital vein puncture with a nondisposable needle.

Another figure shows a nasotracheal tube with a 90-degree angle connector in place of the more appropriate 60-degree, or acute, angle connector and inadvertently demonstrates the risk of excessive stretching of the external nares and kinking of the tube. No mention is made of low-pressure cuffs on endotracheal tubes: all tubes shown incorporate high-pressure cuffs.

The second of these volumes is already something of a classic. Bennett's revision maintains the original format, adhering to the basic principles of pharmacology and technique of regional analgesia. An extensive chapter on the trigeminal nerve is contributed by Bononi. The account of local anesthetic drugs and the chapters on techniques of regional anesthesia and analgesia are clear and up-to-date, but skimpy coverage is given to the physiology of pain. Some of the photographs are of substandard quality and depart from accepted clinical practice. In other respects, this book remains the standard text for the student, the practitioner, and the specialist seeking a compact review of local anesthesia and analgesia in dentistry.

The third book in this group is a refreshing change from the usual fare offered in dental textbooks. Written in a pleasantly informal style, it presents a philosophy of anxiety control in the dental office and a well-proportioned account of the dominant features of technique. A concise description of current theories of pain precedes a chapter on preoperative patient evaluation and humane discussion of the causes, recognition and management of anxiety in the dental office. Thompson's treatment of the role of suggestion in pain and anxiety control is fascinating and full of practical wisdom. The remainder of the work deals with the methods and materials available for the reduction and relief of anxiety during dental care. Evaluation of the available modalities—nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation, psychosedatives, barbiturates, narcotic analgesics and antagonists, belladonna derivatives—stresses basic principles, as does the section on technique. Bennett and his colleagues urge that, with few exceptions, any dental procedure that can be performed in a dental office can be satisfactorily managed with a combination of regional anesthesia plus conscious sedation. True as this may be in expert hands, the use of potent drugs is fraught with many risks, and the authors would do well to stress the old adage that there may be minor surgical procedures but there are no minor anesthetic ones. In sum, a provocative and useful book that is recommended not only to the student and practicing dentist, but also to the anesthesiologist who desires an opinion concerning these techniques.

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