

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Dental Anesthesia and Analgesia. BY GERALD D. ALLEN. Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins, 1972. Pages: 267, illus. Price: \$15.50.

The purpose of the author in writing this text was to integrate the basic sciences and practical techniques of dental anesthesia and analgesia. Apparently, the message is directed toward the dental anesthetist rather than anesthesiologists, who will find things too elementary; and abbreviated for their purposes. However, the details of dental anesthetic technique should be of interest to all concerned. Thus, the book covers a wide range of topics from historical facts through basic sciences to observations on the author's interest in clinical investigation. A lot of material has been compressed into 267 pages. With the increasing demand for ambulatory surgery, many of the techniques used in dental anesthesia and analgesia will find application in other fields of anesthesia.

In view of the author's credentials, it was surprising to find more than a few errors of fact. The formula given for calculation of physiologic dead-space (page 13) is incorrect. While it is true that rebreathing is not seen until fresh gas flow is approximately 70 per cent of minute volume when using the Magill circuit with spontaneous respiration, the second circuit illustrated in Figure 3-8 is a Mapleson B circuit (page 76). Here a flow of fresh gas more than twice minute volume will be required in most clinical circumstances in order to reduce rebreathing to acceptable levels. As inhalation or intravenous sedation is considered an adjunct to satisfactory local block anesthesia, the reader would like to know the relative safety of the several techniques proposed.

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The Doctor's Lawyer: A Legal Handbook for Doctors. BY MARC J. LANE. Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 1974. Pages: 99. Price: \$12.75.

A handbook is defined as a book capable of being conveniently carried as a ready reference manual. This one aims at providing instant answers to legal questions apt to arise in the conduct of professional practice, but the author falls short of his title since he deals mainly with the economic aspects of practice rather than with medicolegal aspects. A pity, because the chapter on "Avoiding Malpractice Litigation" is one of the best in the book, although it adopts the old concepts of "community standard" and "captain of the ship" which have been discarded in many states. The chapters are supposed to begin with a short narrative of the state of the law today, followed by a detailed development in check-list format with marginal captions, but the patchy way in which this pattern is adhered to is quite confusing.

To serve as a handbook, the chapter titles and marginal captions should be informative and contain key reference words, instead of being catchy. For example, the heading "Multiplying Your Dollars," gives the reader no clue that only stocks and bonds are discussed and that real estate investments will be found under "Tax Shelters."

Check marks appear in the margins of some topics and "X's" alongside others, without explanation of the code. Nevertheless, the book does present much valuable information in brief and lucid form, particularly in its chapters on Medico-legal Implications, the Keogh Plan, Stocks and Bonds, Tax Shelters, and Medicare. It will be of value to anesthesiologists just beginning practice, but the information is rather brief for the legally naïve and too elementary for the average physician. The real scope of the book is given in the preface. "Review it before you call your lawyer and you will save his time and yours." Every discussion leads directly to legal consultation for consummation of the particular business adventure involved. Perhaps this is what the writer of the jacket had in mind in saying that "The goal of this handbook is to aid in maximizing opportune legal situations."

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Anesthetics, Resuscitation and Intensive Care. BY W. NORRIS AND D. CAMPBELL, Edinburgh and London, Churchill Livingstone, 1974. Pages: 289. Price: \$7.00.

This small paperback "textbook" presents a comprehensive overview of many of the areas of involvement of the anesthesiologist in both intraoperative and extraoperative care. The contents range broadly from general and regional anesthetic pharmacology and technique to chapters considering obstetric and dental anesthesia. In size, this book is similar to many small manuals designed to provide a ready source of technical information for the medical student and house officer. (However, as a source of technical information, the author's recommendations are somewhat obscure. For example, in discussing drugs used for premedication: "Morphine sulphate is normally given in a dose of 1.5 mg. per stone to a maximum of 15 mg.") In scope, the authors attempt to present briefly material which is more extensively covered in a number of recent introductory anesthesia texts. The result is a small volume which may be useful as an introduction to anesthesia practices for the beginning anesthesia assistant.

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