

In summary, this book provides an overview of some of the problems related to anesthesia equipment. Its greatest appeal will be to residents and practicing anesthesiologists with special interest in anesthetic equipment.

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Relief of Intractable Pain. Monographs in Anesthesiology, Vol. I. EDITED BY MARK SWERDLOW. Amsterdam, Excerpta Medica, 1974. 259 pp. \$25.40.

On first sight, the title might make the reader throw up his hands and say, "What, another series?" Closer examination shows this volume to be an excellent addition to the literature. It is devoted to the nature of intractable pain, the methods of treating this depressing symptom, psychological considerations, and the management of a pain clinic. The editor and the authors of these ten papers are acknowledged leaders in their respective approaches to the problem.

There is little to criticize in the organization and content of the individual chapters, but the reviewer believes that the sequence of the contributions leaves something to be desired. For example, the lucid first chapter by Dr. Evans describing neurophysiologic and neurologic aspects of pain is an appropriate beginning; if it had been followed by Dr. Merskey's paper on the psychological aspects of pain relief, the two would have provided

a background to the untutored reader for all that follows. The organization of a pain clinic, discussed by Doctors Bonica and Black, might then make an appropriate third chapter. Their concept of the multidisciplinary approach to pain is supported by the other contributors and forms one of the main themes of the book. The existing second and third papers, concerning the roles of neurosurgery and radiotherapy, by Doctors Watkins and Jackson, respectively, are excellent, but as each author admits, concern a late course in the management of intractable pain, and would therefore find a logical place at the end, after the other papers devoted to treatment. In the same vein, the learned paper by Dr. Foldes on pharmacology ought to precede the papers dealing with the management of intractable pain. Each of the subsequent chapters—peripheral nerve block by Doctors Dam and Larsen, intrathecal and extradural block by the editor, sympathetic block by Dr. Challenger, "other measures," including cordotomy, by Dr. Lipton—is interesting and clear. An appendix contains a materia medica and formulation of some commonly used neurolytic preparations. All the references, both historical and recent, reinforce the usefulness of this superbly produced review text. The price reflects today's inflation, but the book should find a place in all medical libraries, and with all clinicians who desire to relieve the chronic suffering which Milton, quoted on the flyleaf, declared to be ". . . perfect miserie the worst of Evils. . ."

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Books Received

(Note: Many of these books will be reviewed in subsequent issues of Anesthesiology. Readers are invited to bring interesting new titles to the Review Editor's attention. B. R. Fink.)

Title and Edition	Author Editor	Publisher Address Name, Year	Pages	Price
Problems in the Performance of Anesthetic and Respiratory Equipment	G. M. Wyant	Little, Brown and Co. Boston 1974	226	NPL
<i>Covers standards of performance, humidification, suction apparatus, cuffs and other topics not readily found in the literature</i>				
Anaesthesia for Neurological Surgery	P. B. McComish	Year Book Medical Pub. Chicago 1971	412	\$19.00
<i>A broad view of techniques, including historical rationale and preceded by a section on the intracranial milieu</i>				
Cardiac Catheterization and Angiography	W. Grossman	Lea and Febiger Philadelphia 1974	339	\$24.50

A textbook for cardiologists in training, by 24 expert teachers