As usual, multiple authorship makes for unevenness, but the important chapters are all excellent. The flow of this work is manifest in its definitions, such as "An organism is in distress when it can no longer by itself assure its own survival"; "A patient in ventilatory distress is one unable to meet his or her ventilatory demand"; and in its use of the term "circulatory arrest" rather than "cardiac arrest."

The second quarter of the book surveys the fundamentals of anesthesiology, beginning with chapters on sleep and pain. These and the ones on preparation of the patient and the generalities of general anesthesia pass muster, but the discussion of anesthetic agents is deployed in unmentionable tables good only for a cram course, if that. One notes that the chapter on curarization says nothing about decurarization and the chapter on local anesthesia is marred by an entry that gives the maximal safe dose of tetracaine as 200 mg. A tenfold error of this kind, though the only one in the book, is serious. The incidents and accidents of general anesthesia are dealt with in the concluding chapter of this section, tersely but admirably.

The third quarter takes the student on an interesting run through the essentials of resuscitation, with useful practical tidbits on venipuncture, and the fourth begins with an excellent illustrated lesson on how to rescue accident victims and transfer them to stretchers. There is nothing quite like this in English, and anyone who can read French and wants to teach or understand the essentials of emergency medicine ought to own this pioneering book.

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Acupuncture for Patients. By TERENCE MATSUMOTO.

The purpose of this book is to clear up some of the myths surrounding acupuncture, and to give an overall background of acupuncture practice for patients contemplating such treatment. This is a worthwhile aim inasmuch as health care delivery in the United States is sometimes complicated by the misconceptions that surround certain treatment modalities, and the ignorance of the public about the potentials and limitations of well-publicized therapies. Implicit in the text is an attempt to provide a guide for finger-pressure massage based on acupuncture theory.

At first glance, the reader develops the impression that this book was hurriedly prepared. There are many errors in spelling and grammar. Most lay readers will find parts of the text difficult because the authors have employed sophisticated medical terminology. Excellent interpretations and definitions of terms are provided at times, but