

ology and pharmacology. The authors' writing styles were not extensively edited "to keep the book from having a MAC value of 3." Certainly the book has achieved these purposes. Although one might argue that chapter-to-chapter continuity and cohesiveness might have been improved by further editing, each section may be read independently and they may be read in almost any order, but at the expense of considerable duplication of material in certain chapters. This was permitted, as Katz mentions in the preface, "to provide different ways of looking at the same things." However, this reviewer strongly recommends that Chapter 1 be read first, as it supplies generic information and sets the tone for the chapters that follow.

The comparative *laissez-faire* of the editor indicates that the quality of each chapter depends entirely upon the input of its authors. There is some variability in the excellence of chapters. The works of Waud and Waud, Biker, and Walts stand out, and make the book worth purchasing. The comprehensive review by Biker of the actions of junctionally-active drugs upon the motor nerve terminal is certainly the best on the subject that the reviewer has encountered. The initial chapter on pharmacology and physiology by the Wauds leans heavily upon electrophysiology and receptor pharmacology. Structure-activity relations and the chemistry of junctional and receptor pharmacology are treated only briefly by Waser. The important side effects of relaxants, involving other pharmacologic actions of these agents, are discussed in a clinical fashion by Walts in his chapter on complications. The value of the latter section lies in its thoroughness. It is doubtful whether Walts overlooked any reference. Nearly as complete is Miller's presentation of the interaction of relaxants with various physiologic and pharmacologic factors.

One might be overly critical in noting that Stovner's description of the use of relaxants in Europe rambles and is largely repetitive of material contained in other chapters, or in questioning whether the use of relaxants in pediatrics, obstetrics, and the intensive care unit is so importantly different as to require treatment in separate chapters. On the other hand, it might be argued that this separation is valuable to the relatively uninitiated.

If we remember that this book is aimed principally at clinicians, and that practitioners vary markedly in their levels of training, experience, interest in and knowledge of relaxants, then the value of the book is placed in perspective. The material is broad and deep enough to be instructive at many levels. The medical student or beginning resident may find it difficult reading in certain areas unless he has prepared himself with some basic information. The knowledgeable practitioner and clinical scientist will find this book an encyclopedia of information on relaxant drugs, an excellent

reference worth purchasing if he can afford the (by the editor's own admission) high price.

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**Physiological Basis of Anaesthesiology. Theory and Practice.** EDITED BY W. W. MUSHIN, J. W. SEVERINGHAUS, M. TIENGO, AND S. GOBBI. Piccin Medical Books, 1975. Pages: 367. Price: \$16.00.

This book is a compendium of 21 papers, each presented as an individually written chapter, from the First International Seminar on the Physiological Basis of Anesthesia, Milan, 1973. In general, it deals with physiology of respiration and cardiovascular function.

The individual chapters range from excellent to mediocre. Some, such as those on mechanics of the chest wall, small-airway closure, and ventilation-perfusion relationships, are outstanding, comprehensive, and informative reviews. Many of the remaining chapters are less well-organized, are of minimal scientific or clinical interest, and tend to detract from the total quality of the text.

The figures and photographs are generally well reproduced, with adequate legends, although in several instances incomplete translation from the original language makes interpretation difficult. The references are generally limited in number and also often appear to be somewhat outdated. There are numerous typographical and spelling errors throughout the text.

Unfortunately, the title is misleading, since the book is not an organized presentation of basic concepts but rather covers selected aspects of circulatory and respiratory function in both normal and disease states. This text should be useful to anyone interested in several of the diverse aspects of physiology that are considered, but not to those attempting to develop basic concepts in clinical physiology.

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**Paediatric Intensive Care.** Second edition. BY K. D. ROBERTS AND J. M. EDWARDS. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott, 1975. Pages: 307. Price: \$20.00.

Drs. Roberts and Edwards have succeeded in their aim of providing a book that makes "clear to resident doctors and senior nurses the basic principles underlying the care of the critically ill child."

The authors have provided a rather complete

outline of the problems associated with pediatric intensive care, as well as pertinent references. There is an excellent discussion of the personnel required to staff a unit and their duties, the number of ICU beds needed/100 hospital beds, and the physical make-up of an intensive care module.

In the chapter on monitoring they succinctly describe both invasive and noninvasive techniques, and the problems with each. They come to the conclusion that the best monitor is a well-trained nurse, the logical conclusion of all who work frequently in ICU's.

The book includes accounts of: basic concepts of intensive care, design of a unit, and problems of infections and their control; physiology, including fluids and electrolytes, with some basic clinical problems and their solutions (respiratory and cardiovascular physiology are covered concisely); patient monitoring, artificial ventilation, and radiologic investigations. The latter pretty well outlines what studies can and can't be done in the ICU, and the problems and benefits of studies within the unit.

The next few chapters cover, in an expanded outline form, common clinical problems that cause admission to ICU's including respiratory, postoperative, renal, neurologic and neonatal problems. The last chapter, on emergency resuscitation, is a well organized, concise account of the basic problems and procedures. The appendices give common drug dosages, discuss the international system of units, and outline the use of parenteral nutrition.

While the reviewer does not always agree with the authors' recommendations, for instance, pulmonary lavage in severe asthma, their overall plan for care of children is well thought out, readable, concise, and to the point. It is a worthwhile book for residents and clinicians who do not deal with pediatric intensive care every day.

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**Recent Advances in Critical Microcirculatory Research: 8th European Conference on Microcirculation.** EDITED BY D. H. LEWIS (Sweden). New York, S. Karger, 1975. Pages: 378. Price: \$54.25.

The field of microcirculation has experienced two major developments during the past 20 years. 1) From a much underdeveloped area of circulatory system research, its structure and function poorly appreciated particularly by clinicians, it has literally come of age. Its importance as to both the breadth and the quality of the research it has generated, and its critical role in overall

circulatory function in normal and abnormal states, are widely appreciated. 2) More recently, microcirculatory research has been evolving from the stage of relatively classic, biology-based anatomic and physiologic description to research directed increasingly to the understanding of microcirculatory structure and function through use of the sophisticated tools and methods of the physical sciences. These developments are clearly evident in this volume of the Proceedings of the 8th International Conference of the European Society for Microcirculation held at Le Touquet, France, in June 1974.

The contents, like the Conference itself, are organized into four symposia, which comprise a total of 40 invited short (3-4 pages) papers and 90 selected free communications (really extended abstracts of 2 pages), which are loosely grouped under 15 general headings. The titles of the symposia are: 1) Capillary Permeability, Characteristics of Tissue Specific Transport across the Capillary Wall. It contains 13 papers that deal with various blood-tissue contact factors. 2) Modern Methods in Microcirculation Applied to Studies of Vascular Permeability and Transport. It consists of only four papers, which describe advanced micromethods, based on physical phenomena, for monitoring capillary wall functional behavior. 3) Microcirculation of the Eye. This symposium includes nine papers, which describe retinal microvascular pathology associated with various systemic diseases or with experimental vascular injury. 4) Clinical Aspects of the Microcirculation—Capillary Permeability in Pathological Conditions. This consists of five papers dealing with capillary permeability in acute systemic disorders. The generic headings under which the free communications are grouped must cover most of the entire spectrum of microcirculation research. The subjects of the individual papers in each group are only loosely related to the headings under which they appear—an arrangement resembling the grouping of abstracts in Federation Proceedings (FASEB).

In a Proceedings based on such a diversely constituted conference scientific program, it is somewhat unrealistic to generalize about the quality of its contents. The volume consists of 130 mini-papers contributed by 118 authors from 23 countries (approximately half from the United States, the West German Republic, and Sweden, in that order). It should be noted, however, that most of the articles are impressive in regard to the sophistication of their experimental design and methods of study. Also, the list of authors of both the invited and free papers includes many investigators of recognized competence. Inevitably, however, the paucity of details of experimental methods and the necessarily limited discussion of results in these abbreviated reports detract from their in-depth informational value—and the ability to assess their quality. Nevertheless, a very sub-