

Book Reviews

Acupuncture & Electro-Therapeutics Research. New York, Maxwell House, 1976. The International Journal. Y. Omura, Editor-in-Chief. Price: \$40.00, published quarterly.

We welcome the advent of *Acupuncture and Electro-Therapeutics Research, the International Journal*. The pragmatic use of acupuncture, like the pragmatic use of coca leaves, produced beneficial results long before it became realized in Western Medicine that a material anodyne lay hidden in the practice. A medium for the presentation of scientific studies in this important but often ill-served field, exploited by unregulated, uncritical practitioners, is much needed.

This new journal, with its outstanding interdisciplinary board of basic and clinical scientists, will help to bring light and order into a potentially exciting chapter in the study and management of pain.—B.R.F.

Parenteral Nutrition. BY F. W. AHNEFELD, C. BURRI, W. DICK, AND M. HALMAGYI. Berlin, Springer-Verlag, 1976. Pages: 200. Price: \$12.80.

An understanding of the patient's metabolic needs in various settings is assuming considerable clinical importance. The goals of this book are to supply increased understanding, to make recommendations for day-to-day practice by physicians, nurses and paramedical personnel, and to provide a stimulus for further scientific advancement. The goals are undoubtedly met. Many of the sections, particularly those on requirements and utilization of nutrients, pose questions about which little is known or data are very difficult to obtain.

Guidelines for dosage and application of parenteral nutrition in management of a variety of patients comprise six of the 22 lectures. For the most part, these are clearly written. An Appendix giving the proprietary names of nutrient solutions lists only those available in Europe. This is a distinct disadvantage to use of the publication as a clinical reference in this country.

The sections of metabolism, physiology and patho-biochemistry of stress require a reasonable recall of biochemistry, and without adequate background information, large gaps can appear between ideas. There are, however, three question-and-answer sessions called "summaries" that clarify controversial points and are quite helpful.

The illustrations and tables throughout are exceptionally well done. This undoubtedly reflects the fact that they are reproductions of slides used for a large audience and present a few main points very simply.

The book is inexpensive, short, and good reading even in interrupted segments, and should for these reasons be attractive to busy clinicians in a variety of specialties. A review of basic intermediary metabolism, however, would make much of the information presented early in the text easier to assimilate.

Anyone interested in or dealing with parenteral nutrition should find this a worthwhile purchase.

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The Cerebral Vessel Wall. EDITED BY J. CERVOS-NAVARRO, E. BETZ, F. MATAKAS, AND R. WULLENWEBER. New York, Raven Press, 1976. Pages: 273. Price: \$22.00.

The Cerebral Vessel Wall is based upon a symposium held in Berlin in March 1975. The volume presents in a well-edited and well-illustrated format an up-to-date collection of papers on cerebral microcirculatory morphology, physiology, and pharmacology. Much emphasis is placed on electron microscopic and histofluorescent investigations into the relationship between vascular smooth muscle and its accompanying neurologic network. Building on this strong morphology base, another group of contributors details functional responses of the vessel wall to various pharmacologic and chemical stimuli. About half of the papers in this section are already, to some extent, in print. While a central role of hydrogen ion concentration in regulating cerebral blood flow is acknowledged, the collective thrust of many of the contributions is toward the identification of other chemical mediators of cerebral vessel reactivity. A final section on blood-brain barrier changes due to arterial hypertension and osmotic changes completes the volume. This portion of the book, while providing a reasonable overview of recent blood-brain barrier investigations, seems out of place in the general context of the volume, and is largely a rehash of data available in the literature.

Despite these minor drawbacks, *The Cerebral Vessel Wall* will provide a concise, current, well-referenced review of current problems in cerebral microcirculatory physiology to those with new or established interests in this area of investigation.

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Clinical Neuropharmacology. Volume 1. EDITED BY H. L. KLAWANS. New York, Raven Press, 1976. Pages: 237. Price: \$18.50.

This book is the first volume of a series covering the broad subject of clinical neuropharmacology. The arrangement of chapters does not follow any obvious systematic order, but the contents of the book (nine chapters) fall into three parts. The editor states in the preface that he intends to publish material in the order in which it is received, in order to keep it up to date.

In the first part (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 6 and 9), the authors deal exclusively with the pathophysiology and pharmacology of well-known psychiatric and neurologic disorders, such as schizophrenia, spasticity, Gilles de la Tourette syndrome, Parkinson's disease, and migraine. Tardive dyskinesia syndrome, the main complication of the neuroleptic treatment of schizophrenia, is also discussed. The authors then deal with subjects such as the pros and cons of neuroleptic (chlorpromazine) treatment of schizophrenia, levodopa treatment of Parkinson's disease, and various aspects of migraine therapy.

Some chapters emphasize the authors' own work and beliefs. The material is well presented in clear language. The authors have succeeded in covering the subject, including recent work and up-to-date references. These chapters are intended for neurologists and psychiatrists. However, anesthesiologists can benefit as well by broadening their knowledge about common disorders in the field of neurology and psychiatry. They frequently face surgical patients who have such disorders and are treated with various medications discussed in the text. The important interactions between these drugs and common anesthetic agents are not discussed.

The pharmacology of spasticity is discussed in Chapter 6. This contains much useful information concerning the use of intrathecal phenol for treatment of certain forms of spasticity.

The second portion (Chapters 3 and 5) deals with the use of physostigmine and vitamin B₆ in the treatment of neurological and psychiatric disorders. Again, it is most useful to the neurologist and psychiatrist. Physostigmine is an important anticholinesterase agent and, as such, interacts with some anesthetic agents, muscle relaxants and anticholinergic agents. The interaction with succinylcholine is most important to anesthesiologists, but information on this subject is lacking.

The third portion of the book is dedicated to the pharmacology of increased intracranial pressure and of pain. The factors that determine intracranial pressure (blood volume, cerebrospinal fluid, and the condition of the brain) are discussed. The effects of diuretics on intracranial pressure are presented. The discussions are very brief and basic; for more detailed understanding, readers need to consult the references given. The extensive work of anesthesiologists in this field is not reflected in the bibliography. The effect of anesthetics on intracranial pressure is completely omitted.

The authors discuss certain pain syndromes that may be responsive to anticonvulsants. The Melzack-Wall hypothesis is briefly presented. This chapter is also of limited value to the anesthesiologist.

Other disorders in the field of neurology and neuromuscular transmission, such as myasthenia gravis and myotonia, will be topics in future volumes. If the present volume is an indication of the succeeding ones, they will be of more benefit to neurologists and psychiatrists than to anesthesiologists.

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Self-assessment of Current Knowledge in Anesthesiology. BY D. L. TRICKEY. Flushing, New York, Medical Examination Publishing Company, 1976. Pages: 180. Price: \$10.00.

This is a book of 1,142 multiple-choice questions and answers and references. The material covered is organized by subject,

covers current literature only, and includes pertinent articles from journals other than anesthesia journals.

Many of the questions are concerned with trivial information which does not seem to be of clinical importance. For example, N₂O given in a closed system is an interesting technique and may be a useful way of preventing operating-room pollution. Questions in this area are timely. However, to choose among given values of N₂O uptake in man after two hours of: 60 ml/min and 110 ml/min, is meaningless when one reference gives 73 ml/min at one hour and another reference 110 ml/min at two hours.

Even worse are the questions about minutiae of animal experiments. It is well established that animal data cannot be directly transferred to man—only the broad principles, and that only with great caution. The absolute numbers found in animal experiments are important to the scientists doing the research in that field, but not important to clinical anesthesiologists. Too many questions are about data in rats, cats and dogs.

Nevertheless, the book is of value to anyone wishing to increase his knowledge of current research in anesthesiology. Many good questions are presented. In addition, familiarity with this type of question is important to candidates preparing for examinations.

To get the most out of the book, do not write the answers down in the book itself. Rather, use a separate sheet of paper. Then compare your answers with the answers listed in the back of the book. Your incorrect answers, and there will be many, can then be checked against the references given with each question. This work is best done in the library, because the immediate gratification of knowing the correct answer soon establishes a pleasant, relaxed, well-motivated atmosphere each time you pick up the book. The next session should then begin with a review of the questions of the last session. This not only reinforces the learning process but even restores some of your ego.

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Erratum

An error appeared in the article "Density of Tetracaine-Water Mixtures and the Effectiveness of 0.33 Per Cent Tetracaine in Hypobaric Spinal Anesthesia" (ANESTHESIOLOGY 45:682-684, 1976). The third reference should be: Davis H, King WR: Densities of cerebrospinal fluid of human beings. ANESTHESIOLOGY 15:666-672, 1954.