

traumatized patients, it could equally well be described as a guide to anesthesia for emergency surgery of any sort. As such, it is reasonable reading for anyone responsible for the preoperative preparation and/or anesthetic management of patients in emergency situations.

The initial section, "Transportation and Emergency Care," is in two parts, "Emergency Medical Systems" and "Emergency Assessment and Management." The chapter on emergency medical systems is not directed at the immediate management of individual patients; however, it provides a useful description of the types of systems available. As such, it should serve as a valuable reference source for those responsible for the organization or maintenance of pre-hospital care. The chapter on assessment and management is concise and authoritative. It is useful reading for anyone involved in the care of injured patients, and should serve to enhance significantly the reader's appreciation of the rationales for various therapeutic plans.

Section II, "Preanesthetic Care," deals with some of the problems unique to injured and other emergency patients. The authors approach the problems of the intoxicated patient, the patient with a full stomach, and rapid evaluation of the emergency patient in a logical manner. They clearly and concisely outline the current state of knowledge regarding these problems and present their approach in an authoritative but not presumptuous manner.

The section, "Intraoperative Management," is somewhat longer and is more directly applicable to the anesthesiologist. The principles pointed out are valuable to anyone responsible for the care of these patients. Some points in the chapter on agents and techniques are overstated. In the description of signs and symptoms in hemorrhagic shock, the authors suggest a correlation between hypoxia and the degree of shock. While it has been demonstrated that an increase in deadspace ventilation is induced by hemorrhagic shock, the correlation of acute hypoxia with hemorrhagic shock remains controversial. Certainly, one should not depend on the degree of hypoxia as a method for staging hemorrhagic shock. The authors also recognize the use of large doses of steroids for the treatment of a variety of patients in shock. The exact statement is "The antistress action of the corticosteroids may also be of importance." While this statement, taken literally, cannot be denied, there is no documentation that the widespread use of pharmacologic doses of steroids for all shock patients is beneficial. The primary documentation appears to relate to patients in profound septic shock. The chapters on fluid and airway management unabashedly present and defend the authors' views, and this seems quite appropriate.

The section, "Postanesthetic Care," consists of two chapters, "Respiratory Care" and "Economic Aspects of Trauma." The chapter on economic aspects of trauma might well have been included in the introductory section, and the chapter on respiratory care is the weakest in the book.

Overall, the book is concise, well written, and authoritative, and it should be extremely useful to anyone involved in the management of acutely injured patients, as well as patients undergoing emergency surgery. While this cannot be classified as an extensive reference of historical import, it should serve as an informative and useful handbook for a wide spectrum of

readers. It would be beneficial to have a copy of the book available in the emergency care area, as well as in the operating suite.

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**Pain: A Personal Experience.** BY J. BLAIR PACE. Chicago, Nelson-Hall, 1976. Pages: x + 163. Price: \$7.95

Dr. Pace, a general practitioner, is a member of the professional team of the low-back-pain clinic at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital. He has written this book for the lay public, to present an approach to the management of chronic pain that is currently used in the major pain treatment centers.

The book presents pain from the multidisciplinary approach currently in vogue. There are separate chapters relating to acute pain and anxiety, chronic pain and depression, pain as a career, etc. There are chapters presenting simplified explanations of common pain problems, such as headaches, trigger points, bursitis, and neuralgia. Finally, there are derisive remarks about chiropractic manipulation and acupuncture analgesia (although the author presents no data to suggest his team's results are any better).

There are no data in this book, no facts, no references. You will not learn from this book that the approach did not originate from Rancho Los Amigos, nor that this same approach (and a very similar organization of material) has been published previously by others, with hard data and references. Nor will you find a useful description of a treatment program.

What you will find are many anecdotes and case histories, dogmatic statements about treatment methods, and citations of authorities to bolster the author's assertions. It is a pity that the author's personal experience with pain precludes even a minimal scientific approach. However, if you have a patient who stubbornly refuses to acknowledge the role of psychological factors in his pain problem, and who is used to reading the *National Enquirer* for medical information, this book might possibly soften his resistance.

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**Neuroscience—an International Journal.** Chief Editors P. G. Kostyuk, U.S.S.R., R. Llinas, U.S.A., and A. D. Smith, England. Oxford, England, 1976. Price: \$75 per annum.

*Neuroscience* is sponsored by the International Brain Research Organization. What are the special features of IBRO's journal? First, the journal will be truly international. Second, the journal will publish papers describing the results of research on any aspect of neuroscience. The editors state that every effort will be made to keep the price of individual subscriptions low enough so that world-wide distribution is not inhibited.—*B.R.F.*