

repetitive. Many will not sustain interest in the technical details of skin flaps, split grafts, delayed pedicles, and other "surgical miracles." To the author's credit, he also discusses fluid replacement and the supportive care so vital to success. We are even told about hemoglobinemia, pulmonary edema, and the biochemical nuances of acidosis and tris buffer.

For the anesthesiologist there are special lessons to be learned from the book. Catastrophe can strike even the most complacent community, and a hospital's disaster plan had better be kept current. Those more interested in people than in pathology will note the human responses of this observant patient. There is praise for a nurse who, sensitive to the feelings of disfigured but awake patients, disapproved of discussing them within earshot. Breslau's most excruciating memory was of repeated dressing changes. Very aware of every step, he relives each detail of these "memories of horror." He could hear himself screaming as though his mind was separate from his body, and each dressing removal was like "the flaying of nonbelievers' flesh during the Spanish Inquisition." Today, few would agree that "anesthesia's peripheral risks" justify the withholding of reasonable analgesia. Breslau was able to accept painful procedures under local or minimal anesthesia more easily, knowing that "10,000 deaths a year are related to the use of general anesthesia."

The story goes on, lapsing into the tedium that so often characterizes the extended care of badly burned patients. Through it all Breslau remains an active participant, sharing in the decisions and enjoying his notoriety. Something can be learned from his own prescription for his preanesthetic care. After a time he gave his own orders, and they were followed. He was to be lying on the transport gurney *before* the injections were given. He was to have no visitors. The shades of his room were to be drawn, and the lights out. His phone was disconnected. No one was to speak to him, nor loudly to each other. And strongly objecting to frigid operating rooms, he demanded that he be kept as warm as possible during surgical procedures. He hoped to be asleep by the time he reached the operating room. He wanted to minimize what he considered the worst part of the operation: worrying about it beforehand. He found little assurance from a foreign-born anesthesiology resident whose language difficulties made him wonder what might happen if emergency instructions had to be rapidly understood.

None of this is new. It simply carries extra weight when brought home to us by an articulate observer. In his epilogue Breslau reveals himself as not just rehabilitated, but "better than before," not just grateful for surviving, but defiant in the face of personal tragedy. For him, writing the book has served as an emotional catharsis. An anesthesiologist reading the book will find only modest entertainment. But he will be reminded that the essence of his contract with a patient goes beyond the delivery of technically safe anesthesia. It includes a commitment to making the patient's visit to the operating room as stress-free as man can make it. Too often we lose sight of our patients' humanness. Concern for the whole man does not come in our genes. It has to be cultivated and assiduously practiced. And the rising generation must learn it, too, by both precept and example. Here is an educational goal that is seldom discussed, but lies at the heart of the anesthesiologist's art.

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Regional Differences in the Lung. EDITED BY JOHN B. WEST, with contributions by the editor and five other authors, New York, San Francisco, London, Academic Press, 1977. Pages: 488. Price: \$37.00.

The editor states in the preface that "the chief aim of this book is to collate the results of research of the past fifteen years on the causes and consequences of regional differences of function and morphology in the lung." This it accomplishes in a logical, stepwise and well organized fashion.

The first chapter is a historical review of the early studies of pulmonary function, primarily that done by way of endobronchial catheter techniques. This is followed by a chapter on the radioactive tracer methods of \dot{V}_A/\dot{Q} measurement. Included are construction and circuitry descriptions of the collimators and counters used for the determinations, as well as some of the mathematics involved and the possible errors in technique.

The individual chapters on blood flow and ventilation are beautifully detailed presentations. The data are presented in a logical progression, adequately amplified by charts and diagrams as well as photomicrographs, and summarize the known facts relating to both normal and diseased states.

The chapter on gas exchange, of necessity, involves more mathematics, but is still easily readable. Considerable data derived from the multiple inert gas infusion and washout technique are presented to emphasize changes of clinical significance occurring in various pathologic states.

The editor states that some of the information in the chapter on transpulmonary pressure is controversial. These data are somewhat more difficult to interpret clinically since the studies are difficult to perform, and very few have been done in man.

The chapters on stress and acceleration forces on pulmonary function make for very interesting reading. Some acquaintance with a few basic engineering terms will be helpful in fully understanding these presentations.

In the areas of pulmonary edema and local control of blood flow and ventilation, the data are incomplete (as noted by the editor) but again logically and clearly presented. An excellent and well referenced chapter on closing volume completes the book. This includes methods of measurement, determining factors, and influences of age, disease states, and atmospheric pollutants.

As a collection of monographs by different contributors, this text is up-to-date, well organized, easily readable, extensively documented and authoritative. For those with even a passing interest in pulmonary physiology, this book would appear to be essential. For the clinical anesthesiologist, it will serve as a ready reference for factual data of more than academic importance.

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