

tension with small doses of ephedrine. However, I would take issue with several statements that the authors make. For example, they imply that subarachnoid anesthesia is "simple." They further imply that a disadvantage of continuous epidural anesthesia is an increased infection rate associated with epidural catheters. I am not aware of any substantive data that support this thesis. The incidence of epidural abscess with either continuous or single-shot lumbar epidural techniques is extremely low. Again, in discussing hypotension, no mention is made of maternal position or left uterine displacement in the prevention or treatment of hypotension associated with sympathetic blockade. For cesarean section with general anesthesia, they recommend a rapid induction technique utilizing pre-oxygenation, a pre-intubation dose of *d*-tubocurarine and 250 mg of a rapidly-acting barbiturate, such as thiopental. No mention is made of cricoid pressure to minimize the risk of passive regurgitation and possible aspiration. In addition, 66 per cent nitrous oxide is recommended for maintenance of anesthesia. Evidence now exists that the concentration of nitrous oxide should not exceed 50 per cent (maternal, F_{iO_2} 50 per cent) for optimal fetal and neonatal well-being. They mention that potent halogenated anesthetics, such as halothane, are seldom indicated for cesarean section. However, they omit evidence that low doses of halothane, enflurane, or methoxyflurane (1 MAC or less) in combination with 50 to 100 per cent oxygen improve neonatal outcome and minimize the risk of maternal awareness prior to birth of the baby. Many clinical studies show that low concentrations of

halogenated anesthetics administered prior to birth of the baby are safe, and do not cause increased maternal bleeding. Advantages accrue to the infant also when high concentrations of oxygen are administered to the mother. In reference to the postpartum use of oxytocics, the authors mention that oxytocin often decreases maternal blood pressure and causes "short runs of arrhythmias." The latter statement is vague.

In summary, the slide and tape presentation *Obstetrical Anesthesia: Cesarean Section* represents a well-intentioned and well-conducted effort. Nevertheless, it suffers from several omissions, primarily because much of the material is out-of-date. Several oversimplifications are made unnecessarily. The slides are well done technically; they are visually appealing and effectively convey the intended message. The authors fail to mention the crucial role of proper left uterine displacement in preventing and treating maternal hypotension, so frequently encountered in major conduction anesthesia for cesarean section. The slide-tape program also omits more recent data on the neonatal benefits of high maternal oxygen concentrations, and the potential benefits of low-dose halogenated anesthetics prior to delivery.

DAVID H. RALSTON, M.D.
Department of Anesthesiology
RR 448B Health Sciences RN-10
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

Books Received

Title & Edition	Author/Editor	Publisher	
		Address, Name, Year	Pages Price
Guidelines for Stroke Care	A. L. Sahs E. C. Hartman S. M. Aronson	DHEW Pub. No. 76-14017 Superintendent of Documents U.S. Govt. Printing Office Washington, D.C. 1976	\$ 1.70
Pulmonary Emergencies	J. B. Berté	Philadelphia J. B. Lippincott 1977	192 \$15.00
<i>Workable outlines of management.</i>			
Atlas of Neonatal Electroencephalography	S. S. Werner J. E. Stockard R. G. Bickford	New York Raven Press 1977	224 \$65.00
<i>Diagnostic and developmental electroencephalography for newborns, prematures, well and ill infants.</i>			
Anencephaly	R. J. Lemire J. B. Beckwith J. Warkany	New York Raven Press 1978	282 \$22.50
<i>History, incidence, pathogenesis and prenatal diagnosis.</i>			
Cancer Invasion and Metastasis: Biologic Mechanisms and Therapy, Volume 5	S. B. Day W. P. Laird Myers P. Stansly S. Garattini M. G. Lewis	New York Raven Press 1977	540 \$35.00
<i>Progress in cancer research and therapy.</i>			

Books Received (*Continued*)

Title & Edition	Author/Editor	Publisher		Pages	Price
		Address, Name, Year			
Nonrespiratory Functions of the Lung and Anesthesia Third edition	G. Dal Santo	Boston Little, Brown 1977		195	\$35.00 Qty (Paper- back)
<i>Introductory view and anesthetic implications.</i>					
Advances in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	P. Safar	New York Springer-Verlag New York Inc. 1977		302	\$22.50
<i>Thirty-seven individual visions, syntheses and reviews.</i>					
Malpractice: A Trial Lawyer's Advice for Physicians (How to Avoid, How to Win)	W. G. Alton, Jr.	Boston Little, Brown 1977		230	\$ 9.95
Clinical Cardiology	M. Sokolow M. B. Mellroy	Los Altos, Cal. Lange Medical Publishers 1977		659	\$16.00
<i>A new medical text; a balanced, up-to-date account of the important aspects.</i>					
Diagnostic Electrocardiology	M. C. Ritota	Philadelphia J. B. Lippincott 1977		210	\$22.50
<i>Graduated stepping stones to mastery of the art.</i>					
Pain Control in Obstetrics	E. Abouleish	Philadelphia J. B. Lippincott 1977		452	\$27.50
<i>Problem-oriented review of the basic sciences, techniques and potential complications in obstetric anesthesiology.</i>					
The Aging Reproductive System (Aging, Volume 4)	E. L. Schneider	New York Raven Press 1977		292	\$27.50
<i>Comprehensive view of human reproductive aging, ranging from the behavioral sciences to clinical medicine.</i>					
Reanimacion Cardiorespiratoria	C. A. Lezama R. F. Parra	Caracas, Venezuela Cromotip 1976		203	PNS
<i>State of the art evaluation, written in Spanish, from the Central Armed Forces Hospital of Venezuela.</i>					
Riesgo Profesional	C. A. Lezama R. F. Parra	Caracas, Venezuela Cromotip 1977		245	PNS
<i>Occupational hazards incurred by workers in the medical professions.</i>					
The Excitement and Fascination of Science	Contemporary scientists	231 Grant Ave., Palo Alto, California Annual Reviews, Inc. 1965		566	PNS
A Synopsis of Anaesthesia 8th edition	R. S. Atkinson G. B. Rushman J. A. Lee	Chicago Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. 1977		986	PNS
<i>Updated summary of current teaching and practice.</i>					
Aspects techniques de la reanimation respiratoire	J. Lissac J. Labrousse A. Tenaillon J. P. Bousser	Paris, Philadelphia J. B. Lippincott 1977		125	PNS
<i>The practical elements of drug therapy and artificial ventilation.</i>					

Books Received (*Continued*)

Title & Edition	Author/Editor	Publisher		Pages	Price
		Address, Name, Year			
Anaesthesia for Cardiac Surgery and Allied Procedures	M. A. Branthwaite	Philadelphia	J. B. Lippincott 1977	203	\$21.50
<i>Principles of physiology, pathology and therapeutics, and the choice of anesthetic technique.</i>					
Mechanical Artificial Ventilation Third edition	T. W. Heironimus, III R. A. Bageant	Springfield, Ill.	Charles C Thomas 1977	532	\$24.50
<i>Updated enlarged introduction to the field of respiratory therapy, and the pathophysiology of respiratory disease; Part I: When what and how. Part II: Why.</i>					
Reviews in Perinatal Medicine Volume 2	E. M. Scarpelli E. V. Cosmi	New York	Raven Press 1977	406	\$27.50
<i>Ten contemporary analytical surveys including, among others, paracervical blockade during labor, neonatal oxygen transport, and non-shivering heat production in the newborn.</i>					
Neurotoxicology Volume 1	L. Roizin H. Shiraki N. Grevic	New York	Raven Press 1977	686	\$55.00
<i>Multidisciplinary review of adverse and toxic reactions. Coverage includes tranquilizers, narcotics and anesthetics, stimulants, trace metals, industrial chemicals, and street drugs.</i>					
Current Concepts in Migraine Research	R. Greene	New York	Raven Press 1977	182	\$18.00
<i>Reviews current understanding of one of the most common neurologic diseases.</i>					
Dictionary/Reference Guide for Respiratory Therapy	J. O. Krasowski	Chicago	Year Book Medical Publishers 1977	114	\$ 8.95
<i>Answers to hundreds of questions on basic terminology.</i>					
Fundamentals of Homeostasis Second edition	M. Borow	Flushing, New York	Medical Examination Publishing Co. 1977	189	\$ 8.50
<i>A clinical approach to fluid, electrolyte, and acid-base balance and energy metabolism in health and disease.</i>					
Immediate Care	J. Zorab P. Baskett	Philadelphia	W. B. Saunders 1978	269	\$16.00
<i>Introduction and basic care; specific measures in immediate care of trauma; specific measures in immediate care of nontraumatic emergencies.</i>					
Pheochromocytoma	W. M. Manger R. A. Gifford	New York	Springer-Verlag New York, Inc. 1977	398	\$49.80
<i>From Irvine H. Page's Foreword: "It happily combines basic science and clinical discussion as all good books should."</i>					
Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England Jan. 1978, Vol. 1	A. J. H. Rains R. M. Kirk J. E. Riding K. P. Liddelow D. I. Crowther	Subscription Manager, Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons, BMA House Tavistock Square, London WC1H 4JR, England			\$38.50 <i>p.a.</i>
<i>Historical articles mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of John Hunter.</i>					