

Book Reviews

B. Raymond Fink M.D., Editor

Advances in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. EDITED BY PETER SAFAR. New York, Heidelberg, Berlin, Springer-Verlag, 1977. Pages: 302. Price: \$22.50.

This book is the result of a weekend conference held at Wolf Creek Lodge, Blairsville, Georgia, on October 30–31, 1975. The conference participants and contributors to the book are among the world leaders in the field of resuscitation, and include the initiating group of American Heart Association CPR Committee members who originated nationwide training in the 1960's—James O. Elam, Archer S. Gordon, James R. Jude, Peter Safar, and Leonard Scherlis.

The presentations are logically organized into subjects dealing with the Pre-Arrest Period, Airway Obstruction and Respiratory Arrest, Circulatory Arrest, Drugs in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, Electrocardiography, Pacing and Defibrillation, The Immediate Post Resuscitative Period, and specialized topics such as Massive Hemorrhage, Intrauterine Resuscitation and Near-Drowning. A delightful section of Historical Vignettes completes the book.

The individual subjects are clearly presented, well organized and quite adequately referenced. The printing is sharp and easy to read; the illustrations are clear. Of equal, if not greater value, are the group discussions that follow the formal presentations. This is clearly the most recently published, and therefore the most up-to-date, consensus of opinions by clinicians and researchers eminently qualified in the field of resuscitation. A fascinating section on the prophylaxis and treatment of ischemic-anoxic brain damage and suggested protocols for further study in this area is included.

A review of this work can in no way do it justice. It must be read to be fully appreciated. The book belongs on the book shelf of every practicing physician in America—but only after it has been consumed, digested, underlined and dog-eared. There can be no excuse for any actively-practicing physician—regardless of specialty—to be unaware of the information contained herein.

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Tracheostomy and Artificial Ventilation in the Treatment of Respiratory Failure. Third edition. EDITED BY S. A. FELDMAN AND B. E. CRAWLEY. Great Britain, Edward Arnold, Ltd., Pages: 212. Price: \$19.50.

This paperback is made up of contributions from ten physicians and one nurse, all from Great Britain. The preface states that, "it is hoped that this book . . . will help to supplement the training [of nurses working in intensive care units] . . . as well as to fulfil the need of medical students and doctors" who wish more information about the subjects.

For the nurse, it will, no doubt, accomplish its intended task, at least to some extent. The major factors of etiology, diagnosis, management, and complications are broadly, if lightly, covered. The book will serve as a good appetite whetter for the ambitious who desire more than an introductory presentation.

For the medical student and physician, it is almost certainly too superficial. While it may serve as an introduction for these readers also, the additional books on the subject that will have to be studied will duplicate as well as enlarge upon virtually every point in the

entire work. The physician who takes care of patients in respiratory failure *must* know more than what this book offers. The physician who is not involved in critical care medicine will not be interested in it.

The references are unbelievably sparse: The chapter on the pathophysiology of respiratory failure and ventilation/perfusion imbalance lists six references—none of which includes John West! In addition, much of the equipment described is of English make, and will be unfamiliar to most American physicians.

The charts and illustrations are clear and the print is of adequate size and easily readable. The book is of potential value primarily to nurses or other allied health professionals, but again, only as an introductory work. Its lack of depth in many areas makes it inadequate as a comprehensive text for these individuals also.

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Nonrespiratory Functions of the Lung and Anesthesia. EDITED BY G. DAL SANTO. Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1977. Pages: 195. Price: \$35.00.

This book consists of eight chapters written by different authors and presented in the current series, *International Anesthesiology Clinics*, volume 15, number 4. The stated purpose of the text is to provide the reader with an introductory view of the nonrespiratory functions of the lung and to suggest pertinent anesthetic implications. Despite clear and concise writing, numerous figures, and an abundance of current references, the goal of developing pertinent anesthetic implications is not consistently achieved. Specific mention of anesthetic drugs or significance of nonrespiratory functions of the lung to the anesthetized patient are not abundant in the book. A statement that anesthetics produce transient depression of the lung's defense system for controlling respiratory infections is not referenced.

The value of this book is in its concise and accurate treatment of subjects such as the surfactant system, pulmonary embolism, role of solubility in elimination of inhalation anesthetics, and role of the lungs in metabolism of circulating substances such as serotonin. I doubt that the practicing anesthesiologist would gain sufficient clinically applicable information to justify adding this text to his or her personal library. Instead, this book should serve as a reference source available in a hospital or medical school library should specific questions about nonrespiratory functions of the lung arise.

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Reanimacion Cardiorespiratoria. BY C. A. A. LEZAMA AND R. F. PARRA. Caracas, Venezuela, Cromotip, 1976. Pages: 208. Price: PNS.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation is the title of this book, written in Spanish by three Venezuelan physicians. It is an ambitious under-