

transmitters. Others implicate phosphodiesterase and prostaglandins in opioid habituation and withdrawal, and still others favor "opioid specific neuronal kindling." From work on myenteric neurons, North likens opiate/opioid withdrawal to denervation supersensitivity, observing that prolonged synaptic antagonism may induce trophic sensitization of postsynaptic agonist receptors. Section F concludes with preclinical data on new analgesic compounds developed with hope they may have less abuse potential.

Previous Miles Symposia have dealt with timely issues, including cell membrane receptors and recombinant molecules. This volume summarizes a decade of advances in basic and clinical understanding of chronic pain, mood, and habituation. The magnitude of the work and workers presented in *Mechanisms of Pain and Analgesic Compounds* should resist obsolescence and remain a milestone.

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Anesthesia and Neurosurgery. By JAMES E. COTTRELL AND HERMAN TURNDOFF. St. Louis, C. V. Mosby, 1980. Pages: 433. Price: \$47.50.

The book attempts to integrate current basic science knowledge of the neurosciences with an organized approach to clinical problems, with special emphasis on anesthetic and critical care problems. The text, which presumes that the reader has a basic knowledge of neurologic pathophysiology, is generally well written and illustrated. After reading it, the reader will have sufficient information to appreciate the important mechanisms relating to neuropathophysiology.

The book is written by many authors, some of whom are well known neuroscientists and clinicians from various medical specialties. As with any multi-author book, styles and manners of presentation vary considerably. This also leads to some repetition. An advantage of this format is that the text is up-to-date and well referenced.

The initial chapters are devoted to the physiology and pathophysiology of cerebral and spinal cord blood flow, metabolic requirements, cerebrospinal fluid mechanisms, and intracranial pressure. The next few chapters talk directly about anesthesia for patients with neurologic compromise. The chapter on neuroradiology presents to the anesthesiologist the needs of the radiologist, which, though often forgotten, can be as important as those of the neurosurgeon in management of the acutely ill patient. The subsequent chapters describe problems associated with the patient with severe head injury, including peripheral sequelae. The evaluation of coma and brain death are discussed. The chapter on barbiturate protection of the brain is an excellent review of a subject that is currently under extensive investigation. Sections on neurologic intensive care, induced hypotension, and mechanisms of injury of spinal cord trauma follow. The final chapter, describing the use of evoked potentials, a measurement that should find wider application in the future, is very good. Many chapters include some historical background that gives added insight into the subject matter. The book may be considered lacking in that it includes little about anesthetic procedures peculiar to pediatric neurosurgery or transphenoidal hypophysectomy, and nothing about the perianesthetic management of the patient with an acute or chronic spinal cord injury.

In conclusion, *Anesthesia and Neurosurgery* delivers a very good presentation of the basic neurosciences and its applications to clinical medicine, with particular emphasis on the problems encountered

by the anesthesiologist and intensivist who deals with neurologic disease processes. Despite some shortcomings that may be expected in any volume dealing with a rapidly expanding anesthetic subspecialty, the book can provide a good start for understanding neuropathophysiology and neuroanesthesia. Most clinicians and residents will benefit from reading it.

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Year Book of Anesthesia, 1979. EDITED BY JAMES E. ECKENHOFF, ALEX J. BART, EDWARD A. BRUNNER, H. STEELE HOLLEY, AND HARRY W. LINDE. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, 1979. Pages: 351. Price: \$23.75.

Dr. Eckenhoff and his colleagues have again given us another fine edition in the *Year Book of Anesthesia* series. As in the past, the volume contains abstracts of articles published during the past year relevant to our specialty, plus brief editorial comments. In this reviewer's opinion, the editorial comments are the most appealing part of the book. They place each abstracted article in proper perspective, they are often witty, and they guide the reader to other articles on the subject. One may not always agree with the editor's views, yet their ability to stimulate interest is unsurpassed.

An important feature of the book is that it is not merely a review of articles that have appeared in major anesthesia journals; rather, it emphasizes material from non-anesthesia journals that we do not ordinarily read. By reading this book we can both supplement knowledge gained by reading our own journals and appear well-informed to our colleagues. There is nothing more embarrassing than to be approached by a surgeon or internist who cites an anesthesia-related article that was published in his specialty journal and with which you are totally unfamiliar. Reading the *Year Book* should diminish the likelihood of that's happening.

The book is divided into 22 sections covering individual areas of anesthesia, including, for example, physiology, techniques, complications, ICU, and obstetrics, although as might be expected, there is some overlap between sections. The first section, "The Informed Anesthesiologist," contains some highly interesting material, but is probably a misnomer, since the entire book should produce an "informed anesthesiologist."

The last section has 62 questions covering material in the book, with pages referenced as to where the answers can be found. This quiz can be an enjoyable way to test your reading comprehension and perhaps, assuming approval is obtained from the appropriate accrediting body, could make the book suitable for Category I CME credit.

If one wishes to find an anesthesia book that is informative, current, enjoyable, and inexpensive, the 1979 *Year Book* is an excellent choice.

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