

BOOK REVIEWS

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Anaesthesia for Children. By T. C. K. BROWN AND G. C. FISK. Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne, Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1979. Pages: 439. Price: \$77.50.

This book is divided into three sections: ten chapters address basic physiology, anatomy, pharmacology and general anesthetic management (*i.e.*, equipment, monitoring, preoperative preparation); eleven chapters highlight anesthesia for specific surgical subspecialties; while the remaining twelve chapters enumerate special techniques, and recent advances as they apply to pediatric anesthesia.

The format is well organized and easy to read. Each chapter includes abundant current references, logical organization, and clear, succinct writing. Ample illustrations and photographs delineate what is described in the text. The authors assume their objective of clinical teaching and do not offer apologies for enumerating the finer points of technique. The latter form the essentials for safe pediatric anesthetic care as enumerated in subsequent chapters.

The chapter on medical diseases and anesthesia is particularly comprehensive. It brings together not only the characteristics of various syndromes but also the practical considerations necessary for their safe management.

In conclusion, this book is a first-rate text containing a wealth of practical information for all involved in the anesthetic care of children. The authors are to be congratulated for producing such a welcome addition to the art and practice of pediatric anesthesia.

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Anesthesia and the Patient with Heart Disease. EDITED BY BURNELL R. BROWN, JR. Philadelphia, F. A. Davis, 1979. Pages: 193. Price: \$20.00.

In his introduction to this book, Dr. Brown, the editor of this volume of the series, *Contemporary Anesthesia Practice*, states that the book "is designed for rapid reading and assimilation by the practicing anesthetist of new developments in various procedures in managing the anesthesia of a patient with cardiac disease for non-cardiac surgery. It is not intended to be authoritative but simply suggests lines of management and treatment of patients as seen on a day-to-day basis. This volume consists of a potpourri of articles, each developing a theme that, it is hoped, will be of practical value. Theoretic considerations and irrelevant research have been held to a minimum."

This book, indeed, expresses the preferences and philosophies of the authors of its ten chapters, which include ten anesthetists and two cardiologists. Excellent chapters are contributed by Merin, ("Effects of Anesthetics and Anesthetic Regimens on the Heart"), Tinker ("Anesthesia for Patients with Ischemic Heart Disease"), Gabel and Tonneson ("Postoperative Care of the Patient with Heart Disease"). All chapters are eminently readable, none are comprehensive. Little new information is presented. Each author presents his particular subject in isolation, as is characteristic of this type of collaboration, and this may or may not be perceived as an advantage by the reader. In any book with these limited aspirations, there will obviously be some areas of omission and controversy. For instance, the avoidance of high ambient oxygen levels in patients with large left-to-right shunts is advocated, since it is feared the decrease in pulmonary vascular resistance will increase the magnitude of shunting, and it is recommended that "all cannulations of the internal jugular vein should be performed using sterile technique when possible."

Thus, this is a book with limited aims which serves a purpose similar to that of a refresher course, rather than being a reference source. It will appeal to many in the audience for which it is intended.

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Clinical Anesthesia. Case Selections from the University of California, San Francisco. EDITED BY P. L. WILKINSON, J. HAM, AND R. D. MILLER. St. Louis, C. V. Mosby, 1980. Pages: 324. Price: \$39.50.

Of the myriad books published that are relevant to anesthetic practice, there are few that one may read with the enjoyment that this book provides. The editors have compiled a series of logically organized case discussions that have been presented at Saturday morning problem management conferences at the University of California, San Francisco. After a brief and salient review of the case in question, the comments of residents and faculty are shared with the reader. Following the dialog a concise discussion with literature references concerning the general problems raised by the case is given. Well-designed tables and illustrations, and appropriate photographs, accompany the text.

This text is appropriate for all students of clinical anesthesiology, regardless of their experience. The medical student rotating through an anesthesia service could not find a more intriguing overview of the problems that make anesthesiology a challenging specialty. The resident physician will benefit from the concise reviews, both for improvement of clinical judgement and preparation for board examinations. The seasoned clinician will enjoy analyzing, and in a few instances, second-guessing, the management of the cases presented.

The basic discussions provided for each case seem to be thoughtful reviews of the available literature, and it is likely that the text will be a useful clinical resource for many years to come, in addition to providing a pleasant intellectual experience.

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Health Care Delivery in Anesthesia. EDITED BY ROBERT A. HIRSH, WILLIAM H. FORREST, JR., FREDRICK K. ORKIN, AND HARRY WOLLMAN. Philadelphia, George Stickley Co., 1980. Pages 253. Price: \$14.50.

In recent years there has been much clamor for studies of the "Epidemiology of Anesthesia." this book is the proceedings of a symposium-workshop on this subject, held in November 1977. The objective of this workshop was to define the present status and future needs of health care research in anesthesia. In so doing, it was hoped to: 1) provide information about the number and kind of anesthetics administered yearly in the United States; 2) delineate the training distribution of the providers of anesthesia care and the settings in which care is delivered; 3) characterize recipients of anesthesia care; 4) describe and quantitate the outcomes of anesthesia. The book presents well the current state of the art of health care