

Anesthesiology—Proceedings of the 7th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists: Hamburg, September 14–21, 1980. EDITED BY E. RUGHEIMER AND M. ZINDLER. Amsterdam, Excerpta Medica, 1981. Pages: 1068. Price: \$155.50.

This hard-bound volume contains the Proceedings of the 7th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists in Hamburg, September 14–21, 1980. The book is organized into 21 chapters including brief reports by approximately 250 authors from throughout the world. The major chapters emphasize the diversity of anesthesia from emergency care to technical advances in sophisticated monitoring capabilities. This book paints with broad strokes numerous topics that by necessity are brief and superficially presented. However, the broad interface with diverse specialties of medicine, engineering, and basic sciences is readily apparent in the 1,035 pages of text. Although the size and cost (\$155.50) of this volume may limit its general appeal, I found it informative and interesting to read. The numerous topics, changing style, and emphasis by numerous authors, and broad scope avoided boredom that often limits the value of such a large volume. The majority of the presentations are well referenced to direct further reading. In summary, the only limitation I find in this clinical anesthesia text remains the cost.

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Heartsounds. MARTHA WEINMAN LEAR. New York, Simon and Schuster, 1980. Pages: 501. Price: \$3.50, soft bound.

This book was lent to me by a friend who thought I would find it interesting. It is an excruciating book. For a person who provides care to cardiac surgical patients, it is an effective reminder that we who provide health care are far more fortunate than the recipients. The book details the saga of the last four years in the life of a urologist who awakened one night with an acute myocardial infarction. His experiences during his many subsequent hospitalizations and convalescences, which will be uncomfortably familiar to many physicians, are conveyed by his writer wife using her notes and a journal he compiled. The book is almost impossible to read without experiencing profound guilt, since cruelties sometimes associated with the provision of modern medical care, though perhaps unavoidable, are so demanding of superhuman endurance. Besides the physical ravages of his disease, Dr. Lear experienced deterioration of intellectual performance, to him the most precious commodity of his existence. Furthermore, he was

aware of his mental deficits. The awareness was to him his greatest burden.

The major message of this book is that we, as custodians of the ill, can inflict enormous suffering as well as, and sometimes instead of, relief. It is an unpleasant message, but one we must never allow ourselves the luxury of forgetting.

Although the writing leaves something to be desired, and there are inaccuracies sprinkled throughout, I strongly believe that this book or its equivalent should be required reading for every medical student and house officer prior to the initial assumption of clinical responsibility. In addition, its messages should be repeated periodically to every health professional.

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The Year Book in Anesthesia 1980. EDITED BY JAMES E. ECKENHOFF, ALEX J. BART, EDWARD A. BRUNNER, H. STEELE HOLLEY AND HARRY W. LINDE. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, 1980. Pages: 400. Price: \$27.50.

As the title implies, this book is a compendium of published literature reviewed through November 1979. The book covers a variety of topics in anesthesia including pharmacology, physiology, various techniques, and anesthesia procedures for several surgical subspecialties. The main objective of the book is to familiarize the reader with selected published articles. This is accomplished by a synopsis of the reviewed paper and when appropriate, an editorial comment.

One of the major difficulties with this type of book is presenting enough information in the review discussion to enable the reader to assess the quality and significance of the work. Many of the details such as statistical analysis and methodologies are eliminated. The reader must be cautioned on the risk of making the conclusions from the review without pursuing further the details of statistical analysis, data, and investigative methodologies. Papers of interest also should be reviewed by the reader for further details.

Usefulness of the book is familiarity with the literature. The book does serve the purpose of a quick efficient method of surveying current publications.

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