

**Pediatric Anesthesia, A Guide to Its Administration.** BY BERNARD W. MAYER. JB Lippincott Company, 1981, Pages: 272. Price: \$16.50.

This 272-page paperback is divided into two parts. Part one, consisting of seven chapters, covers basic physiologic adaptation and development of the newborn, preanesthetic evaluation and equipment, fluid management, induction, maintenance, and intubation.

Part two contains 18 chapters related to the management of surgical entities that are common or unique to infants and children in the various surgical specialties. It also contains a chapter on malignant hyperthermia, another on syndromes and diseases that are anesthesia problems unique to children, and a final chapter on resuscitation.

The book is written by an individual well-versed in his subject, knowledgeable of the pitfalls and practical aspects of management which he conveys in an easy-reading prose style. At times, specific names identifying recommended equipment are omitted.

The half-filled pages at the end of the chapters could have been used for references to the material therein. Only three of the chapters had references and a total of 18 references are listed.

In the chapter on equipment, the only delivery systems described are the nonbreathing Ayres T or Y piece systems and the partial re-breathing system of Bains. No mention is made of the circle systems or valved nonbreathing devices that are in use and no information on the use of ventilators intraoperatively or postoperatively is included.

The chapter related to otolaryngology did not include information on the use of the Sanders injector techniques which are used widely in microlaryngological surgery and bronchoscopy in children.

The illustrations include 56 photographs or line drawings of surgical entities, equipment, etc., and 19 tables. Each chapter has a listing of equipment that will be required or useful in managing the surgical entities in that chapter, which would be useful in setting up for the case by individuals conducting the anesthetic management on an infrequent basis.

The title of this book is *Pediatric Anesthesia, A Guide to Its Administration*. It is well-done but it will not replace a complete text on the subject, and as its title indicates, it is a very useful guide.

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**Coagulation: The Essentials.** BY DAVID P. FISCHBACH AND RICHARD P. FOGDALL. Baltimore/London, Williams and Wilkins, 1981. Pages 252. Price: \$19.00, soft bound.

The authors' aim is to provide a practical orientation and guide for members of the surgical team and critical-care physicians involved in the care of patients who may have a coagulopathy. For the most part, this aim is achieved. All of the chapters have been organized to follow a similar pattern; that is evaluation of vascular integrity, platelet reaction, coagulation cascade, and clot lysis. The authors have primarily used illustrations to transmit their information rather than the written word. In fact, the many clear illustrations are the book's primary attribute as a teaching tool. The illustrations are reminiscent of the type that appear in Phillip Thorek's text on "Surgical Diagnosis." The

authors also utilize many brief clinical case descriptions and review questions to further emphasize the concepts they were trying to present. These cases and questions are useful in this regard. At the end of the book, the authors have provided some "cut-out and use" sections which they suggest the reader may remove and keep at hand during their daily clinical practice. It is this reviewer's opinion that these cut-outs are simply summaries of standard coagulation schemes and would be of little value in the diagnosis and treatment of a clinical coagulopathy.

In the interest of brevity and conciseness, the authors have essentially used a "cook-book" approach to the diagnosis and treatment of coagulopathies. The disadvantage of this simplified approach is that many of the problems and intricacies associated with diagnosis and treatment of coagulopathies are omitted. The lack of detail and abbreviated suggested readings and index limit the usefulness of this book as a reference source. However, the authors' intent was to provide a concise fundamental presentation of the diagnosis and treatment of coagulation. They have succeeded in accomplishing this goal. This reviewer highly recommends this book for the clinician with a limited background in coagulation.

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**The Pharmacology of the Neuromuscular Function.** BY W. C. BOWMAN. Bristol, England, John Wright and Sons, Ltd., 1980, Pages 501. Price: \$19.75.

In this short monograph, Professor Bowman has provided the reader with a broad, but comprehensive view of the pharmacology of neuromuscular transmission. Although Professor Bowman is a pharmacologist and not a clinician, he has written this monograph with special reference to anesthetic practice. The book is divided into five chapters which include Striated Muscle, Excitable Membranes, Neuromuscular Transmission, Neuromuscular Blocking Drugs, and Muscle Contraction. Professor Bowman has a long history of writing in a very concise and lucid manner, and this book is no exception. The basic pharmacology and science of neuromuscular transmission are described accurately, but in a manner that the clinical anesthesiologist can easily understand. The pharmacology of neuromuscular blocking drugs that are used clinically is presented in a perceptive manner. Even though Professor Bowman is not a clinician, his writing clearly indicates that he has insight and understanding regarding the clinical use of these drugs. For the reader who wants a more complete description of the concepts presented in this monograph, there are numerous references listed at the end of the monograph.

Though it is the purpose of a reviewer to critically analyze a book, this reviewer cannot find anything to criticize. This monograph represents a scholarly analysis of the pharmacology of neuromuscular function written in a lucid manner. The monograph, although published by John Wright and Sons in England, is being distributed by University Park Press in Baltimore, Maryland. Because of the increasing knowledge of neuromuscular transmission and the interest in the development of a new neuromuscular blocking drug, Professor Bowman's book is especially valuable to the anesthesiologist. I highly