

BOOK REVIEWS

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Anesthesia. Edited by RONALD D. MILLER. New York, Churchill Livingstone, 1981. 2 Volumes. Pages 1529. Price \$98.00.

For some time in anesthesia circles and particularly because so many writers were engaged, it has been no secret that the All-American textbook on anesthesiology was in the wings. Now, one of two potential rivals has appeared on stage ready to endure the first night's criticism. This debut calls to mind some antecedents: in 1914, James Tayloe Gwathmey's *Anesthesia*, a collaborative work; John Silas Lundy's solo effort in 1942, *Clinical Anesthesia*; in 1954, Donald E. Hale's *Anesthesiology by Forty American Authors*; and Vincent J. Collins' *Principles of Anesthesiology* in 1966.

Customarily the editor proclaims his aims for this work as representing the current state of the art, not an encyclopedia and truly a collaborative effort written by recognized authorities in their respective fields. The latter comprise a second generation of youthful American anesthesiologists with some conformity in that 17 hail from the California University system, 10 from San Francisco alone. State of the art it is, but shouldn't this volume also serve as an encyclopedia, a summary of current knowledge, wherein almost any essential item can be retrieved? Without going into detail more than a few relevant subjects cannot be found in the indices.

Initially I encountered some problems in utilizing this book. Section 1 deals with Preparation of the Patient, Use of Anesthesia Agents—Preoperative and Intraoperative, while Section 2 bespeaks of Physiological Functions During Anesthesia. Section 3 covers The Systems and Specific Areas, then Consultant Anesthesia Practice is discussed in 4. While this arrangement may seem logical and the individual topics are well-chosen and comprehensive in coverage, one must resort to salutatory action for continuity of thought. For instance, "Respiratory Pharmacology of Inhaled Anesthetic Agents" (Chapter 13), is separate from "Respiratory Physiology and Respiratory Function During Anesthesia" (Chapter 22), both apart from "Acid-Base Equilibrium and Blood-Gas Measurement" (a chapter which might have been associated with "Pulmonary Function"—later on), and Anesthesia for Thoracic Surgery (chapter 29). Similarly, "The Electrocardiogram and Anesthesia" (chapter 7) is distinct from "Circulatory Pharmacology of Inhaled Anesthetics" (chapter 12), "Cardiovascular Physiology" (chapter 23), "Anesthesia Effects on Cerebral Blood Flow" (chapter

25), and not close at all to "Anesthesia for Cardiac Surgery" (chapter 30) and "Anesthesia for Vascular Surgery" (chapter 31).

In comparison with other English works of the genre, and insofar as grand design is a consideration, some might prefer the ingenious arrangement according to functions in H. C. Churchill-Davidson's, *A Practice of Anaesthesia*: respiratory system, cardiovascular system, nervous system, and so on. While Miller's text is offered in two volumes for convenience in handling, Gray and Nunn's *General Anaesthesia* confines basic principles to one part and clinical practice to the other. But we do need an American creation for its own patois and flavor of practice.

Some random observations! (One cannot engulf a work of this size in just a few sittings, anymore than possible with Tolstoi's *War and Peace*, or Mann's *Magic Mountain*.) Why is there no hint of historic antecedents in this putative general review of anesthesia? Chapters 1 and 2 are related: the one an argument over routine preoperative evaluation, the second concerned with preoperative assessment of special problems which perhaps ought to be part of specific areas in Volume 2. As there is no section on endocrines, we are given a few paragraphs on pheochromocytoma and similar ailments under the preoperative rubric. These chapters are not well-written with a combined total of 492 references and many a bibliographic error—a bit too much for consumption by the average reader. Chapter 3 briefly dismisses psychological preparation for anesthesia without insight into the graver aspects. Isn't "MAC", here treated alone, a matter to be considered under "How Inhaled Anesthetics Work"? Would everyone agree to elevation of the intravenous narcotics to full status as anesthetics, as in another chapter?

A review of an important book of this nature inevitably reveals the personality and prejudices of a reviewer, but the essential aims are to dissect the work for the edification of its readers, to make comparisons with others of the genre, and possibly to influence revision for the better. The current work is a laudable effort surely with further editions on the horizon.

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Books Received

Title & Edition	Author/Editor	Publisher		Pages	Price
		Address, Name, Year			
Chest Physiotherapy in the Intensive Care Unit	Colin F. Mackenzie	Easton, Maryland		260	\$23.00 (soft-cover)
	Nancy Ciesla	Williams and Wilkins			
	P. Cristina Imle	Company			
	Nancy Klemic (Editors)	1981			
<i>The editors have prefaced this book with the hope that it will "provide others with a well-tested, practical approach to chest physiotherapy for intensive care patients."</i>					
Coagulation—The Essentials	David P. Fischbach	Baltimore, Maryland		252	\$19.00 (soft-cover)
	Richard P. Fogdall	Williams and Wilkins			
		1981			

This book presents an account of the essentials of coagulation for use by all who care for critically ill patients.

Books Received (*Continued*)

Title & Edition	Author/Editor	Publisher		
		Address, Name, Year	Pages	Price
Scientific Foundations of Respiratory Medicine 1st Edition	J. G. Scadding Gordon Cumming	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania W. B. Saunders Company 1981	746	\$115.00
<i>The primary objective of this edition is that readers are presented with "personal but balanced views" upon which they could base their judgment. This book includes a wide range of topics relevant to clinical problems while also presenting the possibility of further investigation by the adding of knowledge in the future.</i>				
Transcutaneous P_O₂	Renate Huch Albert Huch Dietrich W. Lubbers	New York, New York Thieme-Stratton Inc. 1981	170	\$ 20.00
<i>This book presents descriptions of measuring techniques and then results of clinical applications are reported.</i>				
Concepts in Drug Metabolism, Part B	Peter Jenner Bernard Testa (Editors) 1981	New York, New York Marcel Dekker, Inc.	627	\$ 65.00
<i>This book incorporates both the philosophical and factual outlook of the reviewers to illustrate the underlying concepts of metabolism theories.</i>				
Anesthesia in Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology Second Edition	John C. Snow	New York, New York Appleton-Century-Crofts Division of Prentice-Hall, Inc.	278	\$ 26.50
<i>This updated edition presents the problems of anesthesia for otolaryngology and ophthalmology, techniques, and a number of references are included for use by clinical anesthesiologists, residents, and nurse-anesthetists.</i>				
Critical Care for Surgical Patients	John M. Beal (Editor)	New York, New York Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.	606	\$ 45.00
<i>This book presents the basic principles in the management of the critically ill patient in many diverse special areas and is designed for all health professionals who assume responsibility for these patients.</i>				
Pathophysiology of Shock, Anoxia, and Ischemia	R. Adams Cowley Benjamin F. Trump (Editors)	Baltimore, Maryland Williams and Wilkins Company	710	\$ 75.00
<i>The purpose of this book is to present a comprehensive study of the subject to be used as background for practitioners, researchers, and students working in the area.</i>				
Narcotic Analgesics in Anesthesiology	Luke M. Kitahata J. G. Collins (Editors)	Baltimore, Maryland Williams and Wilkins Company	259	\$ 34.00
<i>This book presents information from many disciplines to broaden the understanding of the actions of analgesics to improve clinical use. Many of the newer agents and newer techniques are also noted.</i>				
Monitoring of Vital Parameters during Extracorporeal Circulation	H. P. Kimmich (Editor)	Basel, Switzerland S. Karger AG, Basel	332	\$113.25
<i>This volume is designed as an information source for anesthesiologists, heart surgeons, medical and biological engineers, and physiologists as it includes the most recent developments in methods for continuous monitoring of blood gases, blood ion concentrations, and respiratory gas exchange as applied during extracorporeal perfusion.</i>				