

## BOOK REVIEWS

Edward Lowenstein, M.D., Editor

**Recent Advances in Anaesthesia and Analgesia, No. 14.** EDITED BY R. S. ATKINSON AND C. LANGTON HEWER. New York, Churchill Livingstone Inc., 1982. Pages: 182. Price: \$24.00.

As would be imagined, this multi-authored, little text takes several topics and reviews the "what's new" of the issues. The senior editor of this continuing series, Dr. Hewer, opens the volume with a succinct 50-year history of Recent Advances. The subjects considered are pragmatic and timely. Actually, except for the Chapters entitled "Metabolism and Toxicity of Volatile Anesthetic Agents" and "Biotransformation of Intravenous Anaesthetic Agents," the volume rarely amplifies totally new basic pharmacologic or physiologic concepts germane to the specialty. This is the major criticism of the work. The bulk of it constitutes a review of a field of anesthesia interest rather than a compilation of recent science. The leavening of this criticism is that the editors did not plan for their volume to become a theoretic tome, and they described this intent in the preface. They have succeeded—it is not. A delicate balance is difficult to produce that will assuage all critics, however.

Following Dr. Hewer's historical introduction, 10 chapters follow. P. Foex addresses the issue of anesthesia and cardiovascular diseases with the discussion of the recent work of Goldman *et al.* in risk evaluation. Three chapters are devoted to the topic of pain. Dr. David White discusses drug and conduction anesthesia postoperative pain therapy; Dr. Bullingham and co-authors declare enthusiasm for extradural and intrathecal narcotics; finally, Dr. M. Mehta presents the litany of empiric approaches employed for the unfortunate patient with chronic pain. This reviewer enjoyed Dr. Horsey's chapter on Blood Transfusion which gives an easily readable summary of the topic to date. Chapters on day care surgery, surgical awareness, and hypersensitivity reactions to intravenous drugs complete the volume.

Not comprehensive or totally authoritative by any means, but in typical English style, this book is quite readable and imminently practical.

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**International Anesthesiology Clinics: Anesthetic Considerations in the Surgical Repair of Intracranial Aneurysms.** EDITED BY GEORGE P. VARKEY, M.D. Boston, Little, Brown, and Company, 1982. Pages: 243. Price: \$40.00 subscription/year.

This book is a loose collection of essays on the subject of the management of subarachnoid hemorrhage due to aneurysms. The editor's goal is to fill a gap in the neuroanesthetic literature which will lead to improved care of those afflicted with intracranial aneurysms. The volume contains 27 relatively short chapters (most ranging from three to five pages) gathered into four general areas: pre-, intra-, and post-operative considerations, followed by a description of practice techniques in several major neurosurgical centers. This arrangement should provide the anesthesiologist with a rapid and specific review of many current aspects of subarachnoid hemorrhage management. While the book is generally quite strong in the basic medical and surgical aspects of aneurysm therapy, the integration of this information into neuroanesthetic practice is poorly accomplished.

In the introduction, aneurysm surgeon, Charles Drake, sets the

history of aneurysm surgery into broad perspective and recognizes the role of neuroanesthesia in improved care. He speculates that future surgical attacks on aneurysms will increasingly employ temporary intracranial local vascular occlusion and that anesthesiologists will be charged with the task of identifying protective techniques for the temporarily ischemic brain.

The preoperative section contains excellent chapters on the epidemiology, pathogenesis, and medical management of ruptured intracranial aneurysms. The neuroradiology chapter is somewhat incomplete in that it does not mention intravenous digital angiography. Unfortunately, the section on cerebral vasospasm and the delayed ischemic syndrome presents an unbalanced appraisal of the current state of knowledge in this area, avoiding mention of concepts which form the mainstream of information on spasmogenesis. To some extent this fault is corrected in the following chapter which is a pithy review of the pathogenesis and prevention of ischemic brain disease.

A succinct and straightforward exposition of surgical therapy and technique opens the intraoperative section of this book. In addition, several chapters provide excellent reviews on the rationale, methodology, and monitoring of elective hypotension. The EEG chapter provides a particularly unbiased presentation of the value of this monitoring modality in the operating room, while useful clinical insights are drawn in the CBF discussion. Aitken and Drake discuss their technique of monitoring *spontaneous* ventilation during elective hypotension to determine threshold for brain ischemia. While this technique obviously works for this experienced team, it may be dangerous to apply in other situations, especially when surgery is unusually prolonged. The chapter on preanesthetic evaluation is below the standard of the remainder of the book. It offers little advice on specific neuroanesthetic problems, is poorly referenced, and inaccurate. No mention is made of the fact that cerebral blood flow autoregulation can often be assessed preoperatively, with important consequences for the anesthetic management. Another chapter details the cerebral blood flow and intracranial pressure effects of anesthetic agents. While complete with regard to its title, this pharmacologic review is poorly integrated into anesthesia for aneurysm surgery and omits new information already present in current textbooks. Finally, an entire chapter dedicated to the Bain anesthesia circuit is totally out of place. The intraoperative section concludes with a chapter outlining, in cookbook fashion, the techniques developed at the editor's hospital in London, Ontario.

Gamache's discussion of recovery room considerations in the postoperative care portion of the book is abundant with clinical pearls. Although poorly referenced, the practical aspects of his chapter outweigh this minor deficit. Included in the postoperative care section is a brief review of barbiturate coma. The book concludes with several international contributions detailing techniques of anesthesia for patients with intracranial aneurysms. These chapters, although poorly edited, provide interesting contrasts for one's personal approach to these patients.

To some extent, the editor's goal of filling a gap in neuroanesthetic literature is met. We are provided with a relatively compact, current and complete review of therapeutic considerations in aneurysm management. With an estimated shelf life of about five years, it is appropriately published and priced as part of a continuing series.

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