

considerable influence in guiding editorial policies for medical science publications in general. He now presents the distillate of his years of experience in this compact, readily digestible text that describes the "nuts and bolts" of how to write and publish a scientific paper.

Although directed primarily at the novice, even experienced authors can learn a few tricks about their trade from this book. The author offers information ranging from the purely objective (*e.g.*, how to search the literature) to the mostly personal (*e.g.*, how to beat that old bugaboo "writers block"). He considers separately the problems and solutions involved in writing research reports, case reports, review articles, editorials, book reviews, and letters to the editor. Also included are tables of commonly accepted abbreviations and symbols, tables of proofreaders marks, examples of the proper format for different types of references, and a comprehensive annotated bibliography for the serious student who wishes to pursue the art of writing scientific papers. Although I occasionally disagreed (mildly) with some of the advice offered or wished that the author had provided a more detailed rationale for certain recommendations, I am not hesitant in recommending this book for all but the most experienced authors of medical science papers. At a minimum, this book should be readily available in every departmental library. Every resident or young staff member who proposes to author a scientific paper should be encouraged to review this text first; by so doing he or she will avoid much wasted time and effort. Admittedly, there is an element of vested interest to be found in this advice. The vexations inherent in the job of editor are many (so too the rewards)—none exceed those encountered when dealing with an ignorant author. It is abundantly clear to all who have had such an experience that a medical education in no way imparts skills or knowledge concerning the process of writing scientific literature. This book offers a giant first step for doing so.

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Common Problems in Pediatric Anesthesia. BY LINDA C. STEHLING.
1982. Pages: 361. Price: \$5.00.

"This is a most refreshing book." After writing this phrase, I noticed that Dr. Jackson Rees, in his foreword, also used the word "refreshing" to describe Dr. Stehling's new contribution. It seems to fit exactly.

A collection of case studies is not unique, even in the field of pediatric anesthesia. However, this offering of 63 problems set before 61 different discussants is outstanding. The problems are diverse and challenging, the large group of authors sparkles with bright new faces, and their comments are superb.

The subject matter is divided into sections dealing with neonates, infants, and children. The problems relate chiefly to the anesthetic management of patients having known preoperative abnormalities or facing specific operative procedures. Some are familiar problems that have irritated us for years, such as children with Pierre-Robin syndrome, posttonsillectomy bleeding, or appendicitis. However, the experts usually offer new approaches to old problems, or we find that there is a second factor to consider, *e.g.*, the child with Pierre-Robin syndrome also has the Stickler syndrome, or the one with appendicitis happens to have Prada-Willi syndrome, and so on.

It is pleasing to find that space is made for such mundane topics as preoperative questionable upper respiratory infection and extreme fear of needles. These important everyday problems seldom are considered adequately in formal circles. Pertinent problems include management of premature infants or those who had respiratory distress

syndrome for herniorrhaphy, and anesthesia on children with cardiac defects, mental retardation, or seizures who are seen on an outpatient basis. Some problems considered are read about more frequently than seen. These include diaphragmatic hernia and sacrococcygeal teratoma, but they are subjects in which all pediatric anesthesiologists must be schooled thoroughly. Finally, there are discussions of a few non-operative problems, definitely within the field of interest of any pediatric specialty, such as Reye's syndrome, near drowning, and drug overdose.

The discussants, chosen from 22 hospitals in Canada and the United States, have done a remarkable job. Their comments, though varying in length from three to 10 pages, are surprisingly alike in form and excellence. Each has presented a review of material pertinent to the case, sometimes genetic, anatomic, pharmacologic, or other, with an economy of words rarely equaled. To one who is troubled by chronic verbosity, such succinct style is a delight to encounter. The opinions are expressed uniformly in a positive rather than dogmatic manner, giving the impression that, although theirs is not the only method, it is one that has been put to the test and found reliable.

I was particularly impressed by the fact that there were so many individuals who could speak with such authority and apparent familiarity about many problems that I have found rather challenging.

It is difficult to find anything serious to criticize in the book. The views expressed all seem to be sound and entirely consistent with the standards of teaching on this continent. There is little difference in concepts. The reader finds practically identical treatment of comparable situations and that similar practices are repeated over and over again, with the precordial stethoscope—praise be to God—strapped on every patient. Monitoring is modern but not exuberant. I was surprised to find central lines so popular and pleased that flotation catheters rarely were mentioned.

I should like to have seen more references. Some experts gave none at all. Although Dr. Stehling states in her preface that she wanted them to be limited, it seems only fair to give the reader a few leads for further information when topics that are new, unusual, or controversial are discussed.

The entire cast and publishers deserve credit for the near perfection of the final product. The book is put together attractively.

I believe that this small book should be of great interest to anyone who is involved either remotely or deeply in pediatric anesthesia.

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Neurological and Neurosurgical Intensive Care. EDITED BY ALAN L. ROPPER, M.D., SEAN K. KENNEDY, M.D., NICHOLAS T. ZERVAS, M.D. Pages: 304. Price: \$4.95

For most of medical history, the patient with a serious neurologic or neurosurgical disorder was relegated to a small room at the end of a dark corridor. This situation changed with the introduction of the neurosurgical recovery room and with the polio epidemics of the early 1950s, which, together, gave birth to our modern specialized intensive care units (ICU). Neurointensive care has, in turn, drawn on the expertise of many disciplines, particularly including neurology, neurosurgery, anesthesiology, and internal medicine. With the growth of modern neurosurgery and with the unending stream of head trauma, these units often are among the busiest in the general hospital.

Given the expanding importance of the modern "Neuro-ICU," it is somewhat surprising that there have not been more books dealing