

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 overdosage.

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 anesthesiology.

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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

with the subject. The editors have attempted to fill this void by relating their experiences and those of their colleagues in a relatively new and very modern multidisciplinary neuro-ICU. The book is *not* a comprehensive summary of the field but rather a collection of independently authored essays on various aspects of the topic.

Excellent chapters include those on "Airway Management and Respiratory Support," "Electrophysiologic Monitoring," "Myasthenia Gravis," "Guillain-Barre Syndrome," "Spinal Cord Compression," and "Brain Death." Other chapters are excellent but seem either too technical and complex or too sophisticated and specialized for a text of this general nature. This includes the chapters on "Intracranial Pressure Monitoring Devices" and "Acute Respiratory Failure." As might be expected in such a multiauthored text, many chapters leave much to be desired. For example, the chapter on infection provides insufficient information on such areas as intracranial infection resulting from intracranial pressure monitoring devices, postoperative meningitis, and sepsis resulting from intravascular catheters. The chapter on occlusive cerebrovascular disease is an excellent review of the neurologist's approach to patients with a stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA) but provides only cursory guidelines to the ICU physician. It devotes less than one page to surgical revascularization of the brain, although in many units these patients constitute a large portion of the patient population. The chapter also inadequately discusses recent information regarding the physiology of focal ischemic disease. The chapter on medicolegal considerations completely ignores the problem of the acutely damaged patient with a severe deficit (secondary to trauma or hemorrhage) whose chances of high-grade survival statistically are small or nonexistent. A brief chapter on the neurologic evaluation of the comatose patient would be welcome. Perhaps the single greatest flaw is the lack of a chapter dealing with the management of acute postoperative patients. This omission is rather puzzling, because the authors' own statistics indicate that these patients make up a large percentage of their population.

In summary, this is not a comprehensive reference book. Despite its flaws, it is a welcome addition. It will be valuable for the "beginner" in the neuro-ICU *i.e.*, the medical student, the resident or the fellow, and for the physician with little in-depth training in the clinical neurosciences.

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Essays on the First Hundred Years of Anaesthesia, Vol. III. BY W. STANLEY SYKES. EDITED BY RICHARD H. ELLIS. Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone, 1982. Distributed in the United States and Canada by the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. Pages: 272. Price: 25.00.

In these days of preoccupation with science and instrumentation, how fortunate we are to witness the renaissance of several classic works on the history of anesthesia, reminding us of how it all began. In this regard, The Wood Library-Museum has been the catalyst in sponsoring reprintings of Keys' *History of Surgical Anesthesia*, of Sykes' two

volumes on *The First Hundred Years of Anaesthesia*, just now, W. D. A. Smith's *Under the Influence. A History of Nitrous Oxide Oxygen Anaesthesia*, and, presently, the volume under scrutiny here.

C. Langton Hewer notes that Stanley Sykes was a remarkable man, having been a practitioner and author of *A Manual of General Practice*, who then practiced anaesthesia, only to abandon it because of dissatisfaction with the mode of practice in his institution. He then embraced writing as a career and, in addition to the anaesthesia chronicles, wrote several thrillers, one of them, *The Missing Moneylender*, issued in the Penguin Series. Doubtless, the stimulus for the anaesthesia essays can be discerned in the dedication of these works. "To Nan (his wife) . . . And In Memory of My Father, who had a cholecystectomy done by a most skillful surgeon, with all the ritual, panoply, safety and security of modern surgery . . . and died thereafter. And In Memory of Her Father to whom exactly the same tragic thing happened."

While the essays are amusing, they are deceptive in that a strong thread of irony pervades, along with thinly veiled criticism of the foibles of people, institutions, and medical society. His one-man crusade for improvement in anesthesia is apparent in a sampling of titles from all three of the volumes. Volume I, Chapter 1—"The Effect of Cantharides on the Hedgehog" (The point is that it is highly dangerous and misleading to transfer the results of animal experiments to human beings, or even to other species of animals. For if cantharides has no effect on the hedgehog, it has a very definite and sometimes disastrous effect on human beings.), and Chapter 6—"Stupidities"; Volume II, Chapter 1, "Thirty-Seven Little Things Which Have All Caused Death," Chapter 2—"Anaesthetic Deaths In The First Hundred Years," Chapter 13—"Prophecies That Went Wrong," and Chapter 14—"The Death of Miss Ida Wyndham, Nitrous Oxide's First Victim."

Volume III of the Essays carries a history all of its own. Upon Sykes' premature death in 1961 at age 66, a rich heritage of his notes passed into the hands of deClive Loewe, then Bryn Thomas, both since deceased. Ultimately, the task of collation fell to the lot of Richard H. Ellis, who has done a superb piece of work in assembling the chapters and checking on the accuracy of the citations, while meticulously avoiding tampering with a pristine literary style. As usual, the headings are enigmatic, therefore intriguing. Chapter 4—"What's in a Name?" (on his path to obstetric anesthesia fame, James Simpson, so christened, adopted his meddle cognomen, Young); Chapter 5—"The Jump-Up-Behinder" (wherein Sykes deftly disposes of Robert H. Collyer's claim to primacy in suggesting the concept of anesthesia), Chapter 8—"The All-important Airway," Chapter 11—"Guthrie and the Children" (this was Leonard George Guthrie, not Simon of Sackett's Harbor, New York, who systematically documented the importance of "delayed chloroform poisoning," which affected children more commonly than adults and eventually sealed the fate of chloroform).

And, so, one narration after another holds one in its grip because of the pleasure of discovery and the savoring of, in Hewer's words, a "unique gift of writing which reflects the author's excellent grasp of general medicine and anaesthesia."

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