

BOOK REVIEWS

Edward Lowenstein, M.D., Editor

Recent Advances in Critical Care Medicine. Number Two. EDITED BY IAIN MCA. LEDINGHAM and C. D. HANNING. Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, Churchill Livingstone, 1983. Pages: 295. Price: \$39.00.

As the title indicates, this book attempts to provide the critical care physician with new information in a number of areas germane to critical care medicine. The editors have selected 27 individuals who have contributed to the book by, in most instances, co-authoring 1 of the 13 chapters. A high proportion of the authors come from the United Kingdom; however, France, Canada, and the United States also are represented. This truly gives the book an international viewpoint.

The 13 topics are presented in depth and cover areas very pertinent to critical care medicine. Topics especially well presented include: high-frequency ventilation, sedation and analgesia, the use and abuse of antibiotics, antiarrhythmic and antihypertensive drugs, host defense mechanisms in the acutely ill patient, and recent advances in pediatric critical care medicine. The chapter on diagnostic imaging in the critically ill patient bears special comment. It is 73 pages long and provides numerous plates (both color and black and white) on different imaging and radiographic techniques. The topic thus is well illustrated. Of even greater importance, however, is the chapter's delineation of appropriate study selection under differing

clinical situations. Information from a radiologist's viewpoint on the proper sequential selection of studies, as well as realistic expectations of information to be obtained, is well presented.

As is true for most multi-authored books, the quality varies from chapter to chapter in terms of clarity and depth with which the subjects are presented. In general, the chapters are well organized and well referenced. This makes for easy reading and allows for further study. A number of drugs are discussed that are available only in Europe. These discussions, however, are very enlightening for United States readers. There is one major area in which the book falls below this reviewer's expectations. Many of the chapters discuss current practice techniques that have been widely used for several years. Only a small portion of the book actually deals with "recent advances" or future expectations. In this sense, the title of the book raises false hopes.

I recommend this text to the clinician who wishes a current review of several relevant topics in critical care medicine today.

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Books Received

Title & Edition	Author/Editor	Publisher		
		Address, Name, Year	Pages	Price
Circulatory Physiology	James J. Smith John P. Kampine	Baltimore Williams and Wilkins 1984	332	\$ 16.95
Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Imaging	Stuart W. Young	New York Raven Press 1983	175	\$ 19.00
Monitoring Practice in Clinical Anesthesia	J. S. Gravenstein David A. Paulus	Philadelphia J. B. Lippincott 1982	386	\$ 37.25
The Anesthesiologist's Handbook	Donald G. Catron	Baltimore University Park Press 1983	272	\$ 13.95
Pulmonary Surfactant System	E. V. Cosmi E. M. Scarpelli	Amsterdam Elsevier Science Pub. 1983	401	U. S. \$112.75 Dfl \$265.00
Postresuscitation Disease	V. A. Negovsky	Amsterdam Elsevier Science Pub. 1983	392	U. S. \$112.75 Dfl \$265.00