

BOOK REVIEWS

Edward Lowenstein, M.D., Editor

The Pharmacologic Approach to the Critically Ill Patient. EDITED BY BART CHERNOW, C. RAYMOND LAKE. Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins, 1983, Pages: 799. Price: \$79.95.

This text, according to the authors, is written as "a reference source for the retrieval of pharmacologic information relevant to the care of critically ill patients." In my opinion, the authors accomplish their goal plus more.

The 41 chapters are presented under four sections (Clinical Pharmacology, Resuscitative Pharmacology, Medications, and Research) and cover all aspects of drug therapy in critical care medicine including radiation and toxic chemical injuries. Each chapter is written by physicians experienced in that particular field. The book is filled with factual content and is extremely well referenced, citing approximately 5,000 references. Although emphasizing pharmacology, many chapters include a discussion of the pathophysiology of commonly encountered disease states. The last section on future and specialized areas is particularly informative in its coverage of neuropeptides, prostaglandins, and computerized infusion systems.

My criticisms are few and minor. The arrangement of the chapters lacks continuity. Some of the material, although important in outpatient management, does not relate directly to the intensive care setting. Topics such as the potential role of diuretics in maintaining nonliguric renal failure, the effect of leukocytes in the pathogenesis of oxygen toxicity, protamine hypersensitivity in patients previously exposed to protamine-zinc insulin, and dopamine anaphylaxis could profitably have been included.

Overall, the book appears factual, comprehensive, well written, and an excellent reference source. I recommend it to any physician managing critically ill patients.

WILLIAM E. JOHNSTON, M.D.
*Assistant Professor of Anesthesia
The Wake Forest University Medical Center
The Bowman Gray School of Medicine*

*Co-director, Intensive Care Unit
North Carolina Baptist Hospital
Winston-Salem, North Carolina*

Advances in Pain Research and Therapy: Volume 6. Neural Mechanisms of Pain. EDITED BY LAWRENCE KRUGER AND JOHN LIEBESKIND. New York, Raven Press, 1984. Pages: 364. Price: \$49.00.

Neural Mechanisms of Pain is an edited compilation of presentations at the 16th Annual Symposium of the Intra-Science Research Foundation in Santa Monica, California, February 14-16, 1983. The volume is dedicated to a discussion of the neuroanatomic and neuropharmacologic influences of pain perception, transmission, and modulation. Most of the papers are interrelated, and the material is organized into a sequential and cohesive volume. The quality of the paper and printing is excellent. The book is well edited, illustrations are clearly reproduced, and the typeface is easy to read.

Experts report on current research on nociceptors, neurotransmitters, and neural circuitry involved in nociception. The role of the neuropeptides in the inflammatory process is well delineated. The demonstration of sensitization in the primary afferents and interneurons with prolonged afterdischarge explains the persistence of pain in the absence of continued nociception.

Considerable emphasis is directed to the dorsal horn of the spinal cord as the major primary afferent terminus and to its role in both the perpetuation of pain and its modulation. The multiple neuro-modulation systems are described, and receptor sites in the central nervous system are elaborated upon.

Most of the material presented is of a highly experimental and technical nature, presuming more than a basic knowledge of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology. While an attempt in the summary of each chapter has been made, however, to extrapolate conclusions of experimental work to clinical situations, in most instances such correlation is not possible.

The first chapter on Recent Advances and Future Needs is a duplication of the IASP Presidential Address, which appears in Volume 5 of this series. Other material by Melzack and Price is inappropriate for this volume and is repetitious of work presented elsewhere.

This volume is highly recommended for basic scientists. The knowledgeable pain specialist may derive new information on pain mechanisms and modulation from many excellent research reports in *Neural Mechanisms of Pain*. The clinical practitioner, however, will find little useful material for patient application in chronic pain disorders.

HAROLD CARRON, M.D.
*Professor of Anesthesiology
Consultant, Pain Management Center
University of Virginia Medical Center*