

## BOOK REVIEWS

Carol A. Hirshman, M.D., Editor

**Intensive Care Medicine.** Second Edition. EDITED BY J. M. RIPPE, R. S. IRWIN, J. S. ALPERT, AND M. P. FINK. Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1991. Pages: 2,071. Price: \$155.00.

In the writing of a textbook on critical care medicine, deciding where to draw the line on information relevant to the intensive care physician is difficult. The diseases and organ system failures that precipitate intensive care unit (ICU) admissions are diverse—in many cases, meriting books in themselves. In general, the line has been drawn tightly around diseases, procedures, and techniques found only in ICUs. In this greatly expanded (from 1,203 to 2,071 pages and from 109 to 248 authors) second edition of *Intensive Care Medicine*, the editors have extended the line to include more diseases and more about the diseases, as well as chapters on specific problems found only in the ICU. The result is an excellent, comprehensive, basic text for any physician interested in intensive care medicine.

The book is divided into 19 sections. Ten of the sections are organized by organ system or medical specialty or subspecialty, including neurology and psychiatry. Three of the sections are oriented to surgical issues: general surgical problems, shock and trauma, and transplantation. Four additional sections relate to issues peculiar to the ICU setting: overdoses and poisonings; nutrition; pharmacokinetics; and moral, ethical, and legal issues and public policy.

The sections organized by organ system are primarily about disease processes and their treatments. These sections follow classic clinical textbook organization and include some history, etiology, anatomy, pathophysiology, the medical history and physical findings, diagnostic procedures, and appropriate therapeutic options. Where indicated, the pathophysiology is illustrated with graphs or sample pressure traces. Differential diagnosis is often well handled in tables and the therapeutic options in flowcharts, making it easy to pick out key points. Overall, most chapters have very up-to-date and useful references that will allow the reader to pursue certain issues in more depth.

The surgical chapters emphasize evaluation of patients for surgery and postoperative management. Reasonably, several chapters are devoted to intraabdominal problems and should be especially useful to those who consult surgeons. The chapters on hemorrhagic and septic

shock are very up-to-date and include good references. The chapters on trauma are divided by injury syndromes, making it easy to find management of specific problems. The chapters on postoperative management of cardiac patients and transplant patients seem very specialized, but are evidence of the editors' effort to be complete.

The nutrition section is very welcome. Given its importance and given the poor training of most physicians in this area, the chapter on enteral nutrition could even be expanded. The section on applied pharmacokinetics includes chapters on the pharmacokinetics of specific, commonly used drugs and the effect of illness and drug interactions on their elimination. The section on moral, ethical, and legal issues and public policy is a thoughtful addition that is overlooked in many texts.

Special mention should be made of the first section, "Atlas of Procedures." This section contains detailed instructions on how to perform many of the procedures done in the ICU. As the title of the section implies, it contains many beautiful, clear, and instructive illustrations. Fortunately, there are few photographs, because, as in most texts, the quality of these are poor. (Reading the chest x-rays and echocardiograms is really a challenge. Thank goodness for those little arrows).

The textbook is well organized, well written, and very readable. There is remarkable consistency among chapters. The illustrations, tables, and flowcharts are accessible and helpful. The book provides basic information on ventilators and procedures, as well as information (with recent references) on current therapeutic debates. The editors have achieved their goal of creating a textbook that emphasizes management and is practical. Overall, this new edition of *Intensive Care Medicine* is an excellent one-stop textbook for any physician, from intern to attending, who practices in the intensive care unit.

GAIL G. WEINMANN, M.D.  
Associate Professor  
Environmental Health Sciences  
Joint Appointment in Medicine  
The Johns Hopkins University  
615 North Wolfe Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21205

### ERRATUM

In the *Clinical Investigation* by Robertie *et al.* published in the July, 1991, issue (Robertie PG, Butterworth JF IV, Royster RL, Prielipp RC, Dudas L, Black KW, Cole LR, Zaloga GP: Normal parathyroid hormone responses to hypocalcemia during cardiopulmonary bypass. *ANESTHESIOLOGY* 75:43-48, 1991), the sentence on page 45, second column, first paragraph, line 17 should read, "Plasma intact PTH was measured using an immunoradiometric assay (N-tact, Incstar, Stillwater, MN)."