for trainees who are preparing to sit the FRCA examinations. It is also an excellent reference or quick revision textbook for consultants for procedures that they perform on an infrequent basis. It should therefore be in every departmental library.

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This book provides excellent coverage of topics pertinent to doctors beginning their specialty training in anaesthesia. The book is strikingly portable and neatly fits into theatre scrub pockets. It is an enjoyable read and well presented. The book is divided into seven chapters covering anaesthetic equipment, anaesthetic pharmacology, planning for general anaesthesia, routine induction of general anaesthesia, rapid sequence induction, central neuraxial blockade, and emergency drills.

The chapters are mapped well to the Royal College of Anaesthetists’ Initial Assessment of Competency. Each chapter is concise and well structured, with good use of figures and diagrams. The authors have included screen shots of videos as figures in the text and provided directions to the online video appendix where appropriate. Although not yet available as an e-book, the nine videos are accessible online.

The book is pitched well for trainees new to the specialty as well as a guide to those responsible for their training and assessment. The book draws together some very useful national guidelines, mentioned in the form of flowcharts and algorithms, sourced from Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland, Difficult Airway Society, National Institute of Health and Care Excellence, and National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death and from the World Health Organization surgical safety checklist. The ‘Emergency Drills’ chapter describes the recognition and management of common emergencies. It rightly stresses the importance of developing non-technical skills and of good communication in emergency situations. The self-assessment questions at the end of each chapter are a useful addition. I think ketamine as an induction agent and prilocaine as another option for a local anaesthetic agent deserve a mention in the pharmacology chapter.

In summary, this book is a handy companion guide and covers all relevant topics for a novice anaesthetist. I would readily recommend this book to anaesthetists, both new and experienced in the specialty.

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First published more than 20 yr ago in 1992, Anesthesia: a Comprehensive Review is in its fifth edition, attesting to its usefulness to the anaesthesia community, particularly to those studying for certifying or recertifying examinations. The editors and contributors are faculty or former faculty members of the Mayo College of Medicine in Rochester, MN, USA. The present book is an update from the fourth edition published in 2010. It is published in both paperback and electronic (Kindle) formats. The Kindle version is less expensive, but the reader has access to an electronic version of the textbook through Expert Consult at no extra cost after purchasing the paperback version. The Kindle version is merely a flat copy of the paperback version, but the electronic version has added functionality that is very useful (see below). I reviewed the electronic version of the book.

The fifth edition mimics the organization of previous editions. The book contains 1001 single best-answer questions divided into two parts, Basic Sciences and Clinical Sciences, and 11 chapters. The Basic Science section contains chapters on anaesthesia equipment and physics, respiratory (including critical care medicine questions), and pharmacology of i.v. and inhaled anesthetics (the chapter is entitled ‘Pharmacology and Pharmacokinetics of Volatile Anesthetics’, but there are a few questions about nitrous oxide). The Clinical Science section contains chapters on fluid management, general anaesthesia, and subspecialty anaesthesia (paediatrics, obstetrics, neuroanaesthesia, regional/pain, and cardiac). There is a fair bit of overlap, in that clinical questions appear in Part 1 and basic physiology questions appear in Part 2. In general, however, the chapter divisions make sense. Each chapter in the printed version starts with a section of questions, followed by a section with answers and explanations. Thus, one has to flip back and forth in the book (and the Kindle version) if one wants to check out the answer immediately after answering the question. The electronic version has this standard formatting, but also includes a fun, interactive, and immediate gratification functionality (new to the fifth edition), in which one can read each question, click on the answer, immediately check the answer (and revise the answer if wrong), and read the explanation. Thus, no page turning is required, and feedback is immediate.