Book Reviews

Introduction to Anaesthesia: The Principles of Safe Practice (Seventh Edition)

Robert D. Dripps, James E. Eckenhoff, Leroy D. Vandam. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, PA, 1988. pp 499. ISBN 0-7216-2318-2 \$41.75

This edition represents the seventh generation of the original soft-covered manual, privately published in 1949 from the University of Pennsylvania. Since that time it has undergone tremendous evolution in accordance with the specialty of anaesthesia. It is presented as 36 chapters divided into four sections, totalling 499 pages. One new chapter on opioids has been added.

In keeping with the original goal of being an introductory text, those chapters dealing with the basics of anaesthesia (chapters 2–22) are well written. Basic aspects of monitoring, pharmacological principles, anaesthesia-related drugs, regional anaesthesia and fluid therapy are briefly but concisely presented. Appropriate attention to clinically important aspects of patient evaluation in the areas of monitoring, intubation and airway management and anaesthetic techniques are stressed. These chapters are easy to read, supplemented with informative illustrations, tables and graphs. References are updated to include sources to early 1987. However, chapters dealing with areas of anaesthetic subspecialties are brief and superficial, but they are referenced with up-to-date, widely accepted, specialty texts in each area.

This textbook fulfills its stated purpose as an introductory source of information. Students or residents undertaking anaesthesia electives and technical assistants will find it a quick, easy-reading source of information. Nevertheless, I would not recommend it for residents in anaesthesia as more detail, especially in subspecialty areas, is required.

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Anesthesia and The Heart Patient

Fawzy G. Estafanous (Ed.). Butterworth Publishers, Stoneham, MA, 1989. pp. 367. ISBN 0-409-90102-4 \$65.00 us

This book was compiled following the second international symposium sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic Foundation dealing with anaesthetic care of the cardiac surgical

patient. The intent of this publication was not to produce a textbook but, rather, to present the latest information from experts in the field. The list of contributing authors includes many familiar names in cardiac anaesthesia, the majority being American.

The text is divided into eight parts, covering various pharmacology topics, management of anaesthesia for open-heart surgery (concerning mostly coronary artery surgery, but also cardiac transplantation, congenital heart disease, and antiarrhythmia surgery), anaesthesia for non-cardiac surgery in patients with heart disease, and anaesthesia for major vascular surgery. There are also sections on cardiopulmonary bypass and mechanical support of the circulation, monitoring of cardiovascular function, and postoperative care of the cardiac patient.

Some criticisms commonly applied to multiauthored treatises may be raised, particularly the uneven quality of chapters. There is not an excessive degree of overlapping of material, although in a number of instances, one chapter provides an overview of a subject, which is then discussed in more detail in subsequent chapters. One of the major drawbacks of the book lies in the fact that its information is dated since the symposium was held in 1986. This applies especially to some of the chapters dealing with pharmacology. There are several chapters that really offer no further information than might be found in any general anaesthesia textbook, let alone one devoted to cardiac anaesthesia. The occasional chapter appears to have been put together rather hurriedly, with even its proof-reading leaving something to be desired.

One of the strengths of this work is the inclusion of subject material not often found in cardiac anaesthesia textbooks, for instance, Dr. F. Loop's discussion of coronary artery surgery, and Dr. J. Hollman's discussion of thrombolytic therapy and coronary angioplasty. There are several other chapters which offer excellent summaries of controversial areas in contemporary practice or of current areas of interest, for example, Dr. J. Tinker's chapter on inhalational anaesthetics, Dr. J. Urzua's discussion of cardiopulmonary bypass, and the chapters dealing with monitoring of cardiovascular function.

In summary, this is a useful book and one which deserves a place in a university department's library, although I would not purchase it for my own collection.

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Fonction diaphragmatique. Travail respiratoire
 Monographie de la société de réanimation de langue française. Réunion de Printemps, Limoges, 21-23 mai 1987. Expansion Scientifique Française, Paris, 1987. pp. 264. ISBN 2-7046-1233-1 235F: \$44.00

Ce travail publié en 1987 rassemble des travaux présentés lors du congrès de la Société de réanimation de langue française à Limoges. L'intérêt de cette monographie réside dans le fait qu'en plus de communications libres entourant le fonctionnement des muscles respiratoires, elle contient plusieurs revues des connaissances actuelles sur la physiologie normale de la pathologie et les méthodes d'exploration musculaire. Pour les anesthésistes plusieurs de ces travaux et de ces revues ont un intérêt particulier tel la fonction respiratoire post-opératoire, les sevrages, le traitement pharmacologique des dysfonctions diaphragmatiques et la technique de ventilation dite « aide respiratoire ». Les présentations sont claires succinctes et sont accompagnées d'une excellente bibliographie. C'est en somme un bon résumé de ce qui se passe actuellement dans ce monde relativement nouveau de la physiologie musculaire.

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Pharmacologie en pratique anesthésique (2^e édition)
 Philippe Duvaldestin et collaborateurs. Masson, Paris, 1989. pp. 269. ISBN 2-225-81487-2 289F: \$54.00

Il s'agit de la deuxième édition d'un livre condensé de 269 pages comportant 14 chapitres portant sur la pharmacologie pertinente à l'anesthésie. Les chapitres importants pour l'anesthésiste sont couverts dans le livre soit: la pharmacocinétique générale, les agents d'induction, les anesthésiques volatils, les analgésiques centraux, les myorelaxants, les anesthésiques locaux et les interactions médicamenteuses. Un chapitre est également consacré à l'analgésie post-opératoire et les quatre derniers chapitres relèvent davantage de l'aspect réanimation soit: l'antibiothérapie prophylactique, la médication cardiovasculaire, les héparines et les antagonistes de la vitamine K. C'est un livre qui se lit facilement et qui souligne les points majeurs importants pour l'anesthésiste. Le style y est uniforme et on peut y retrouver rapidement une information. Les sujets sont évidemment résumés compte tenu de la dimension du livre « 269 pages » et l'information est à date dans la majorité des cas. La lecture de ce livre peut donc être recommandé à celui qui veut rapidement réanimer ses connaissances en pharmacologie anesthésique, sans rechercher un détail ultra-spécialité et

référéncé, bien que certains chapitres comme le premier (devenir des médicaments) et le 13ième (Les héparines) soient particulièrement complets pour un anesthésiste.

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Clinical anatomy for Anesthesiologists
 Richard S. Snell, Jordan Katz. Appleton & Lange, Norwalk, Connecticut, 1988. pp. 328. ISBN 0-8385-1258-5 \$123.00

Although several anatomy books have been published with the anaesthetist in mind, few of us refer to them with any consistency. We regularly deal with anatomical considerations in our practice, yet frequently have only a superficial knowledge or misconceptions in some areas. The explanation for this contradiction may be the limited scope, incomplete descriptions, or lack of clinical application of previous texts. Clinical Anatomy for Anesthesiologists written by Richard S. Snell and Jordan Katz may very well be the comprehensive quick reference text that many anaesthetists have been awaiting.

The authors have used numerous clearly reproduced figures and illustrations, as well as subject photographs, radiographs and electron micrographs to simplify and highlight surface and internal anatomy. Eight of the nine chapters are focused on anatomical systems of interest and importance to anaesthetists. Concise descriptions and frequent clinical notes as well as a clinical problem section at the end of each chapter make for easy reading and emphasize clinical relevance. The chapters on "Cranial Nerves" and "Autonomic Nervous System" are comprehensive and particularly well done. The ninth chapter "Reception of Pain and Control of Muscular Activity" has information that could be re-organized and expanded or could be included in other chapters. This is what second editions are for and given the overall high quality I have no doubt that the text will stand that test of time.

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