BOOK REVIEWS

MECHANICAL MISADVENTURES IN ANAESTHESIA. Gordon M. Wyant. Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1978. Price \$15.

THIS BOOK details a collective experience of anaesthetic accidents and incidents which will be of interest to those recognizing their own clinical mishaps and near mishaps as well as to those who can still look forward to their misadventures in the future.

Without being obvious the author has shown that any change or improvement in equipment and apparatus may produce new, unforeseen and often unforeseeable disadvantages.

The happy choice by the author of the anecdotal style of presentation makes this a very readable text. An excellent index and list of references by system and subject allow orderly and rapid referral to any incident.

Dr. Wyant's book should be of considerable value in the prevention, discussion and solution of future mechanical problems in the increasingly complex discipline of anaesthesia.

I. M. MACKAY

DRUGS IN ANAESTHETIC PRACTICE. M.D. VICKERS, F.G. WOOD-SMITH and H.C. STEWART. Butterworths, 5th Ed., 1978. 604 Pages. Price: \$29.95.

THIS BOOK has established itself as one of the essential items in the library of any trainee or practising anaesthetist and this present edition, published five years after the fourth edition, maintains the high standard of its predecessors.

This edition differs from the previous ones in that drugs are discussed in more detail as a result of expanded knowledge and eleven new monographs have been added. Twenty-nine drugs have been removed because of a decrease in their popularity due to the availability of less toxic ones or because their actions are similar to other drugs presented in the book. Some deficiencies of the previous editions have been corrected; thus, at the end of the book, there is a section presenting the proprietary names of drugs, in the U.S.A. and U.K. This makes it easier to find one's favourite drug which one may know more familiarly by its trade name. The section on parenteral fluids again includes a discussion and tabulation

of the substances which can and cannot be added to them. This is of major importance in modern practice where a large number of drugs are administered to the patient, for better or for worse.

The initial chapters in a general section, which has been expanded, refers itself to the pharmacological sciences particularly pharmacokinetics, mechanism of drug interactions and bio-availability. This section may seem detailed to some readers but it is very pertinent to students and examiners. The drugs are divided into major subdivisions according to their mode of action and drugs are discussed in alphabetical order. Drugs are reviewed in comprehensive detail with more emphasis being put on detailed activity than in previous editions.

This book should be on the shelf of every practising anaesthetist and the money paid for this superbly printed and bound volume would be well invested.

W. DEMAJO

MANAGEMENT OF THE INJURED PATIENT. J. NORMAN and M. MOLES, Editors. London, Macmillan Press, 1979. 120 Pages. Price: £4.95.

THIS VERY GOOD BOOKLET is a collection of articles relating to the management of the injured patient which first appeared in the British Journal of Anaesthesia and, as the publishers' notes indicate, would be very useful to people involved in the primary care of the injured patient.

The first four articles are dedicated to the organization involved in the handling of the single injured as well as the handling of a major accident involving a number of patients. Appropriate emphasis is placed on the immediate and appropriate treatment of patients at the site of the accident where it is very important to have adequately trained personnel; an article defining training requirements for paramedical personnel is included. The presence of a physician to co-ordinate and liaison with the hospitals is a very important element in the handling of major accidents because, otherwise, the hospital may be left in the dark as to the size of the accident and the consequent need for equipment and personnel.

The remaining articles are dedicated to the clinical management of patients and the majority

relate to the management of patients with head injuries; these are quite comprehensive and would be of major interest to emergency physicians, anaesthetists, neurosurgeons and intensive care physicians. Several papers relate to management of renal failure, the use of blood and blood substitutes and management of metabolic problems in the injured patients; these are somewhat sketchy but, as presented, are quite useful.

Generally, this booklet is to be recommended to any individual involved in the immediate care of injured patients. The editors did not set out to produce a comprehensive review but comment on most of the major points of importance and any deficiencies are more than amply made up by the extensive references.

W. DEMAJO

MANUAL OF PAEDIATRIC ANAESTHESIA, DAVID J. STEWARD, Toronto. Longmans Canada Ltd., 1979. 305 pages, \$17.50.

PAEDIATRIC ANAESTHESIA has been hampered as an academic specialty by the lack of a suitable comprehensive text-book which captures the scope of the discipline and relates both the theory and practice of anaesthesia for infants and children. This manual, generated by the staff of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, does not attempt to fulfill totally the need of the specialty, but rather aims to present "the important differences in anatomy and physiology of children compared with adults, the general principles of anaesthetic management of paediatric patients, and to describe techniques of anaesthesia used at the Hospital for Sick Children for specific procedures".

The book begins with a brief description of the psychological aspects of paediatric anaesthesia, followed by concise outlines of paediatric anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and instrumentation. A brief description of a handful of paediatric disorders important to the anaesthetist follows, then descriptions of techniques for various surgical procedures, nicely laid out by surgical discipline. As appendices there are a particularly useful list of syndromes and their implications, guidelines for post-anaesthetic management, drug dosage schedules, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

As a manual of clinical paediatric anaesthesia this book is a welcome addition to the medical literature and exceedingly well presented. It is eminently readable with few typographical errors

and well indexed for retrieval of information. The references are specific, reasonably recent, and presented according to topic for ready consultation. The anaesthetic procedures are described in enough detail to allow the anaesthetist who only occasionally deals with a sick child to readily administer a tried and true technique.

Unfortunately, the "cookbook" manner of presentation of the material is both the strength and weakness of the piece. While a blessing to the occasional paediatric anaesthetist, the paucity of background information leading to the techniques advocated limits the academic value of the work. Several paediatric entities important to anaesthetists, particularly neonatal respiratory distress syndrome, oxygen toxicity and thermal regulation are given but transient mention. The illustrations are exceedingly sparse and several points, particularly concerning anaesthetic circuitry, could have been further advanced with appropriate figures. Lastly, the techniques and protocols proposed, while admittedly being those practised successfully at the largest paediatric centre in North America, are not necessarily universally adhered to by other paediatric centres. Dissenting views of alternatives are not presented or referenced in this volume.

Overall, it is a book that meets the goals defined by the authors and will be a welcome addition to any anaesthetic library. Unfortunately it is not the academic reference text so needed by the discipline, but certainly upgrades the current paediatric anaesthesia literature.

PETER G. DUNCAN

DYNAMIC BRONCHOSCOPY, M.A. DE KOCK, Springer-Verlag Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1977. P.P. 119 pages, price \$51.60.

THIS EXCELLENT LITTLE BOOK seems to reinforce the old adage that a picture can say a thousand words. The superb intraluminal laryngeal, tracheal, and bronchial photography so clearly depicts the various appearances encountered by the endoscopist that the teaching and learning of this procedure will be greatly enhanced. The text itself is sound and describes, as well as any, the technical component of the art of bronchoscopy. No doubt there will be some disagreement with the author's preferred anaesthetic techniques. The book will be of particular use to the physician or surgeon training in a specialty requiring skill in bronchoscopy.

J.H. KERR