BOOK REVIEWS

ANAESTHESIA FOR CARDIAC SURGERY AND ALLIED PROCEDURES. M.A. BRANTHWAITE, D.J. HATCH AND M.K. SYKES. Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1977. Price \$22.50.

"ANAESTHESIA for Cardiac Surgery and Allied Procedures" is long overdue. The facts are presented succinctly, combining a discussion of physiological, pathological and clinical situations which all practising cardiac anaesthetists will encounter.

Cardiac anaesthetists, who now play an important role in both the intraoperative and post-operative management of patients, should have access to this monograph. Resident anaesthetists in training should include this book in their literature and should make use of the list of references at the end of each chapter.

Dr. Hatch has completed this excellent book with his clear and concise chapter on anaesthesia for cardiac surgery in the first year of life.

K.T.N. Barnicoat

POSITIONING IN ANAESTHESIA AND SURGERY. JOHN T. MARTIN, M.D. Toronto, W.B. Saunders Company Canada Ltd., 1978. Price \$23.00

THE RESPONSIBILITY for positioning patients for surgery is usually given to the surgeon and orderly staff. The anaesthetist accommodates his apparatus to the necessary position, and other than supporting the head and neck, is rarely an active (or even knowledgeable) participant in the positioning process. This is an unfortunate situation, since active and knowledgeable participation by the anaesthetist will benefit the patient during both general and regional anaesthesia.

"Positioning in Anaesthesia and Surgery" is a multi-authored book, with contributions from both surgeons and anaesthetists. The book's greatest fault is that the title, though accurate, does not generate as much immediate interest as the book deserves. It is a well edited and well illustrated text which covers its topic extensively, thoroughly, and in an easily readable style.

Each position is discussed as to the surgical requirements, the methods of obtaining the cor-

rect position, the physiologic implications and the anaesthetic considerations. The contributions from "both ends of the table" (surgeon and anaesthetist) give the book a balanced view, and prove that proper positioning can be compatible with both good anaesthesia and good surgical exposure. The illustrations are clear and sufficient in number to help the reader to visualize the important details of each position.

A separate and well illustrated chapter is devoted to neural injuries associated with surgical positions and operations.

This book is a welcome addition to the anaesthetic literature. Every practicing anaesthetist will gain both practical and theoretical knowledge to the advantage of surgeon, anaesthetist and patient.

David Frankel

THE YEAR BOOK OF ANESTHESIA, 1978. Editor: JAMES E. ECKENHOFF, M.D., D.Sc. Chicago and London, Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., 1978.

THESE DAYS when one sees the incredible increase of publications and the shrinkage of time available to read them, some publications are bound to have escaped the attention of even an insomniac "journal worm". It is for this reason and because publications of interest to anaesthetists are appearing in a variety of journals, that I find this book, which brings together summaries of articles that have appeared in the last two years, so useful. A publication of this kind is, of course, at the mercy of editorial censorship but one must congratulate them on the honesty with which the work is done. It is evident by reading the Year Book that some articles have occasionally been ill-advisedly omitted in the past, but the belated addition only helps to further emphasize their importance. One could criticize some of the publications included, but they are few indeed and certainly do not detract from the overall value of the book, which is considerable.

This publication should be read by every anaesthetist at whatever stage of their education they are. Anaesthetists in training will find this book invaluable because of the articles it contains, because it gives an indication of the wide scope of anaesthesia and, not least, because it

indicates what research is being done and what needs to be done or re-done. A book to be highly recommended.

W.C. Demajo

MANUAL OF ANAESTHESIA. JOHN C. SNOW, M.D. Boston, Little, Brown & Company, Toronto, J.B. Lippincott Co. of Canada, 1977. Price \$13.95.

MANUALS in various subjects are becoming more and more popular, reflecting the need for a compact vade that contains the essential information contained in the larger tomes but with a minimum of verbal padding and a comprehensive index system allowing rapid access to the information contained. Its emphasis should be to clearly define the common practices and the handling of complications.

In *Manual of Anaesthesia*, the authors have fulfilled some of the goals stated in the preface; that is, providing the essentials of anaesthesia in the Operating Room, the Recovery Room, the Delivery Room, Emergency Room and the Intensive Care Unit. The pharmacological basis of anaesthesia is very well covered with succinct descriptions of the mode of action of drugs, complications and the management and dosages. This good theoretical background is carried over into such practical aspects as spinal and epidural blocks, the management of hypotensive and hypertensive emergencies and cardiac problems. The routine management of adult anaesthesia is well covered from the pre-operative assessment of patients, care during operation and recovery room management. A very good succinct chapter on respiratory failure and its management is included.

The problems encountered in specialty anaesthetic practices are given separate chapters with the most pertinent points being discussed in detail but others either not mentioned or done very superficially; in particular, neonatal resuscitation is glossed over, management of meconium aspiration not being mentioned at all; the special problems of Harrington's procedure and face and neck surgery are not mentioned. Medical problems related to anaesthetic practices are generally well covered but I could not help but notice the absence of practical comments about such things as hyperkalaemia and hypokalaemia, low urine output, intra- and post-operativity, and there is no mention in the index of asthma,

aminophylline, hypokalaemia, oliguria or hypoglycaemia.

On the whole, one would recommend this book to first year residents but I feel that the book could be improved in a number of ways, not the least of these being a better index and the inclusion of an appendix of normal laboratory and physiological values.

W.C. Demajo

RESPIRATION AND VENTILATION. A Guide for Nurses and Nursing Assistants. (Atmung und Beatmung. Ein Leitfaden für Schwestern und Pfleger). G. Wolff, 2nd Ed. 1978. 31 figs. VIII, 72 pages. Soft cover. DM 28.80; US \$15.80. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer-Verlag. ISBN 3-540-09062-2.

THIS SHORT VOLUME is a very basic review of the anatomy and physiology of the respiratory system, blood gas analysis, mechanical ventilation, and supervision and care of patients on ventilators. As the title intimates it is directed primarily at nursing personnel whose duties include the care of these patients. The text is entirely in German.

Gordon M. Wyant

Dobutamine (Dobutamin) – A new sympathomimetic substance. Editor: H. Just. Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine, Vol. 118, 1978. 56 Figs. 8 Tables. XI 81 pages. Soft cover. DM 32.—; US \$17.60. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer-Verlag. ISBN 3-540-09077-0.

THIS LITTLE BOOKLET represents the report from a symposium at which this latest beta-adrenergic stimulator was discussed. It should be of interest to general internists, cardiologists, anaesthetists, and to all those who are called upon from time to time to treat patients with cardiovascular disease. It is particularly timely, since the agent has just been released for clinical use in Canada. Moreover, its value to Canadian readers is enhanced by the fact that three of the nine contributions are written in English.

Gordon M. Wyant

LOCAL ANAESTHESIA (Lokalanästhesie). Editors: F.W. AHNEFELD, H. BERGMAN, C.

BURRI, W. DICK, M. HALMAGYI, G. HOSSLI, AND E. RÜGHEIMER. *Clinical Anaesthesiology and Intensive Therapy*, Vol. 18, 1978. 86 Figs. 58 Tables. XI, 265 pages. Soft cover DM 48,—; US \$26.40. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer-Verlag. ISBN 3-540-09083-5.

THIS REPORT of a workshop on regional anaesthesia consists of 24 separate essays covering a wide field, including chemistry, pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and toxicology of local anaesthetic drugs, topical infiltration, and

peripheral conduction analgesia, as well as lumbar epidural, caudal and subarachnoid blocks. Other contributions deal with specific applications of regional anaesthesia, as in obstetrics and in paediatrics, in emergency medicine and in pain control. Of specific agents, the new drug "Carticain" and carbonated anaesthetics are discussed. Altogether an interesting volume for those interested in this field and conversant with the German language, but by no means a comprehensive text of the subject.

Gordon M. Wyant