Book Reviews

Anesthesia and Uncommon Diseases (Third Edition)
Jordan Katz, Jonathan L. Benumof, Leslie B. Kadis
 (Eds.). W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1990.
 pp 964. \$99.95. ISBN 0-7216-2367-0

The third edition of "Anesthesia and Uncommon Diseases" is a pleasure to read and will remain an "old friend" when I am faced with an unfamiliar problem, particularly in the middle of the night. Substantial revision has been carried out – there are 17 new authors and two new chapters, covering eye, ear, nose and throat diseases and liver diseases. Despite these additions and changes, the length has only increased from 807 to 964 pages. Most chapters are extensively referenced and provide a good jumping off point for the preparation of rounds on uncommon topics. The chapter "Morbid Obesity and Other Nutritional Disorders" is excellent. The revision has occasionally been patchy. For example, in the chapter on infectious diseases, although an extensive and excellent section on HIV infection has been added, little revision was made in the pathophysiology and treatment of septic shock. As a consequence, the majority of references are drawn from the 1960's and 1970's despite extensive work which has been accomplished since then. As in previous editions, contributions have been received from an international selection of distinguished authors and the independence of each contributor has been respected. This occasionally leads to conflicting advice. For example, the use of succinylcholine in the patient with an open eye injury is supported in one chapter while discouraged in another. This is not really a drawback since the opinions presented are well substantiated and represent the current spectrum of clinical practice.

In summary, the third edition of "Anesthesia and Uncommon Diseases" is a worthwhile revision and should replace the second edition in departmental and personal libraries.

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Preanesthetic Assessment 2

Elizabeth A. M. Frost (Ed.). Birkhäuser Boston Inc.,
 1989. pp. 384. \$42.50 US. ISBN 0-8176-3430-4

This is the second collection of Continuing Medical Education reviews, prepared as a monthly series by The

Department of Anesthesiology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center, and published with the Anesthesiology News. In this volume, the 24 lessons published in the second two years of this program have been brought together and updated by an independent reviewer, so that they represent "state-of-the-art" practice. The topics cover both esoteric and common topics ranging from the patient for hepatic transplantation, to the patient with peripheral vascular disease. There is an emphasis on challenging anaesthetic problems, such as pituitary disease, thyroid problems, sickle cell anaemia, intracranial tumour, hydrocephalus, rheumatoid arthritis and Parkinson's disease. Equally, there are sections on situational challenges: lithotripsy, ECT, cataract surgery, open eye injury, sepsis and lobectomy. In the paediatric area, there are reviews on meningomyelocele, and tracheoesophageal fistula, and in the geriatric population, aortic aneurysm, percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty and prostatic surgery are dealt with. Each update begins with a case presentation, followed by a detailed consideration of the pathophysiology, the requisite preanaesthetic work-up including investigations, the anaesthetic management, and in most instances, the postoperative follow-up. Each review would constitute an ideal and comprehensive response to an oral examination question, and is an attractive source of information for American Boards candidates as well as those seeking certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. It could well provide guidance to examiners for these boards, but its primary intent is to bring the practising anesthesiologist, including those isolated from the academic field of practice, up to date in relation to many common and vexing problems of preanaesthetic assessment, investigation and management. In summary: a worthwhile purchase for any anaesthetist or resident in anaesthesia.

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Intensive Care Manual (Third Edition)

T. E. Oh (Ed.). Butterworths Pty Limited, Stoneham, MA, 1990. pp 699. \$39.95 US. ISBN 0-409-30170-1

The editor has presented this book as a working textbook rather than a synoptic guide. It is intended as a concise source of information on Intensive Care to enable the

therapist to administer prompt, effective, and safe management without recourse to large reference books or monographs. The book discusses the current options in the management of a wide range of conditions seen in a mixed care Intensive Care Unit. In attempting to cover concisely a wide range of problems, the book encounters its main weakness. Discussions of pathophysiology and rationale of therapy are limited by necessity. For those unfamiliar with intensive care medicine, the book does not explore the risk-benefit ratios as the limitations of recommendations to a significant degree.

It is more than a cookbook for physicians or students unfamiliar with intensive care medicine. It is most useful as an adjunct and quick reference source for the physician with a solid medical background who practises Intensive Care on a part-time or occasional basis. The basic concepts of critical care are not covered in sufficient depth for those with no previous experience. Nevertheless, the book is more impressive, not in what was missed, but in what the contributors have been able to include in an easily read 700-page manual.

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Cardiac Anesthesia (Second Edition: Volumes 1 and 2)
Joel A. Kaplan (Ed.). W. B. Saunders Company,
Philadelphia, 1987. pp. 1122. \$192.50. ISBN
0-8089-1848-66

The second edition of *Cardiac Anesthesia* is an update of the first edition *Cardiac Anesthesia*, 1979 and *Cardiac Anesthesia Volume 2: Cardiovascular Pharmacology* 1983. In the preface it is noted that the book was written for the purpose of further anaesthetic management of the patient with cardiac disease undergoing cardiac or non-cardiac surgery. However, no chapter is dedicated to the anaesthetic management of cardiac patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery.

The book is organized into six parts. The six major areas covered are anaesthetic pharmacology with an emphasis on pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics; monitoring; preoperative management with emphasis on optimal drug therapy; anaesthetic management, ranging from congenital heart disease to heart transplantation; circulatory support via mechanical and pharmacological means; postoperative care and complications. Although there are 32 chapters written by many contributing authors, there is very little duplication.

In the section devoted to anaesthetic pharmacology, the chapters on pharmacokinetics in the cardiac patients and opioid analgesics in cardiac anaesthesia are well written

and easy to read. The chapter on the effects of inhalation anaesthetics on systemic haemodynamics and the coronary circulation is a good but complicated review of the topic. The chapter on haemodynamic monitoring provides many practical tips and scenarios for perioperative management, which would be useful for both anaesthetic residents and cardiac anaesthetic fellows. The chapter on anaesthesia for myocardial revascularization offers a comprehensive overview of cardiac anaesthesia for coronary artery disease surgery. Coagulopathy, a major complication of cardiopulmonary bypass, is inadequately covered. Furthermore, there are no specific recommendations on fluid management, and transfusion guidelines of various blood products.

Overall this book is an excellent definitive text in the field of cardiac anaesthesia for anaesthesia residents, cardiac anaesthesia fellows and staff, and those interested in the management of the patient for cardiac surgery.

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Clinical Monitoring

Carol L. Lake. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia,
1990. 832 pp. \$136.80 ISBN 0-7216-2961-X

Clinical Monitoring is a large (832 pages, 23 chapters), multiauthored text which reviews current monitoring practice in anaesthesia. The scope is comprehensive with major sections on the cardiovascular, respiratory and nervous systems, and chapters on obstetrics, haemostasis, computers, the anaesthesia machine and biochemical monitoring. In each chapter a description of the commonly available monitoring devices is accompanied by a discussion of their clinical use and of relevant physiology. A good selection of references accompanies each chapter. The presentations are aimed at the practising anaesthetist; as noted in the preface, methods applicable to "research institutions" have been omitted.

The layout of the book (large print, well-organized subheadings, numerous figures) and "keep it simple" discussions make for a very readable text. As might be inevitable in the first edition of a multiauthored text the chapters vary in depth and balance. One could wish for less rambling discussions in some sections and more detail in others.

Overall, the book is well done, lends itself to browsing and provides a pleasant review of the subject.

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