BOOK REVIEWS

CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF MOTHER AND NEW BORN. GERTIE MARX. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1979. Price: \$29.75. U.S.

THE BOOK, as a whole, is quite well done. It suffers from the variation in chapter quality which is a weakness of many multi-authored books.

Dr. Marx's book attempts to devote itself exclusively to the first few days following delivery. Since pregnancy, labour, delivery and the post-partum period are a continuum, sole devotion to the period after delivery is occasionally cumbersome and, in certain instances, breaks down.

While the editor is an anaesthetist who devotes most of her time to obstetrics, the book is not, and does not, claim to be an "obstetrical anaesthesia" book. Many things about obstetrics and anaesthesia are not discussed, and much of what is included is of greater relevance to the paediatrician than the anaesthetist. Nevertheless, I would recommend the book to anyone with a general interest in the perinatal period but primarily after mastering the basic principles of obstetrics and anaesthesia as it applies to that topic.

RICHARD WRIGHT

FREE YOURSELF FROM PAIN. DAVID E. BRESLER with RICHARD TRUBO. New York, Simon and Schuster, 1979, 477 pages.

AS THE TITLE of the book suggests, it is written primarily for lay persons and those who suffer from chronic pain, and the style of writing is in keeping with this aim. Yet it is instructive also for physicians, largely because it is comprehensive and omits no treatment modality, however exotic it may be.

Throughout the work the author's bias for unorthodox methods of treatment is obvious. Only 42 pages out of a total text of 427 are devoted to traditional methods of treatment, a small proportion indeed. Over 100 pages are given over to "Getting needed nourishment", some 80 to "Getting help from within", and 60 more to "Unconventional Therapies". While all or most of these modalities may have a place in the treatment of chronic pain under some circumstances, there surely is a disproportion here in the amount

of text devoted to each. The expert who reads this book is of course able to balance the information, but the lay reader has no such power of discernment, and therein lies a serious drawback of the book.

GORDON M. WYANT

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND WORLD CONGRESS ON PAIN: Advances in Pain Research and Therapy, Volume 3. Edited by JOHN J. BONICA, M.D., JOHN C. LIEBESKIND, Ph.D. and DENISE G. ALBE-FESSARD, D.Sc. New York, Raven Press, 1979. 956 pages.

THIS VERY COMPREHENSIVE VOLUME touches on 90 separate papers upon any conceivable subject relating to pain. Sections are devoted to the neurophysiology of nociception, pain related to peripheral nerve lesions, orofacial and head pain, endogenous mechanisms of pain inhibition, modulation of pain by afferent stimulation, low back pain, measurement of pain, pain research and therapy. This book is a must on the shelf of all physicians interested in the subject of pain and is a worthy companion to its two sister volumes.

GORDON M. WYANT

SELECTIVE BRONCHOGRAPHY AND BRONCHIAL BRUSHING. F. PINET, M. AMIEL, A. BUBET, J.-C. FROMENT. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1979. Price: \$99.00

THIS BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED and printed book gives the authors' personal experiences in performing and interpreting bronchograms and its usefulness in the diagnosis of various pulmonary abnormalities. It presents a very practical overview of the equipment, techniques and pitfalls in performing this investigation.

Bronchography has had a varied history: the initial enthusiasm for the technique, after the pioneering work of Chevalier Jackson, has waxed and varied as techniques were refined and new equipment and contrast agents came into use. It has a place in the investigation of the patient with pulmonary lesions but a lot of information is now obtained by other means, such as sputum cytology, bronchoscopy and bronchial brushings, percutaneous needle aspiration and biopsy.

The book is divided into seven chapters: the first three are dedicated to a description of the techniques used in performing the bronchogram with a short discussion of the anaesthetic techniques and a review of the normal bronchial tree. The last four discuss in great detail the various abnormalities found in pathological states.

This book discusses a very specialised topic which will be of interest to radiologists and pulmonary physicians. The price, I think, reflects the small market at which this book is aimed.

W. DEMAJO

APPLIED RESPIRATORY PHYSIOLOGY. J.F. NUNN. Woburn, Butterworths U.S.A., 2nd Edition, 1979. Price: \$39.95 U.S.

THE FIRST EDITION of this book was published in 1969 under the title "Applied Respiratory Physiology with Special Reference to Anaesthesia." It acquired a deservedly high reputation for its encyclopaedic coverage of applied respiratory physiology and for the clarity of presentation of both the text and the diagrams. It has been recommended reading for anaesthesia residents and residents in chest medicine, and has been a useful reference text.

This new edition has dropped from its title "with special reference to anaesthesia" and in the preface no mention is made of its special applicability to anaesthesia, but rather more emphasis is put on its usefulness to intensivists. No new chapters have been added, but whole chapters have been re-written and new material has been introduced. The diagrams are still as clear and informative as in the previous edition, but the typesetting has been changed, somewhat for the worse, to accommodate a larger volume of information. The references have been updated and are as comprehensive as before. It is the opinion of your reviewer that this book should be read by all anaesthetists, pulmonary physicians and in-

tensive care physicians, especially those involved in teaching. It is a useful reference work.

W. DEMAJO

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF BLOOD-GAS ANALYSIS. A.P. ADAMS and C.E.W. HAHN. London, Franklin Scientific Projects, 1979.

THE COMBINED EFFORTS of an anaesthetist from Guy's Hospital, London and a clinical physicist from the Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics, Oxford, have resulted in this compact book on the principles and practice of blood-gas analysis.

The first half of the book covers the underlying physics and physiology. A chapter each is devoted to the gas laws, cardio-pulmonary homeostasis, oxygen and carbon dioxide transport, and acid-base balance. There is nothing really new presented here – but the authors do succeed in presenting the now familiar information in a refreshingly clear, crisp manner.

The second half of the book is distinctly weighted towards clinical measurement. The methodology and apparatus involved in blood-gas analysis are described in detail. Anyone involved in the actual collection of a blood-gas sample will find the two chapters on quality control aspects and the correction factors especially illuminating. The book concludes with accounts of the measurement of oxygen content, oxygen saturation and in vivo blood-gas analysis.

The overall emphasis of this book is indeed physical as opposed to clinical. The text is extremely well laid out and presented in a very pleasing format – with an abundance of useful facts, figures, and formulae. However, the highlight of this book must surely be the liberal use of superb coloured diagrams, both two and three dimensional, which, combined with the lucid text, results in a very readable account of what traditionally is a very dry subject.

A.L. BARCLAY

BOOKS RECEIVED

LECTURE NOTES ON ANAESTHETICS. JOHN L. LUNN. C.V. Mosby Co., 1979. Price: \$12.00 Cdn.

1979 YEAR BOOK OF ANESTHESIA. JAMES E. ECKENHOFF, Editor. Chicago Year Book Medical Publishers, 1979. Price: \$10.95 U.S.

ANALGESIC DRUGS. J. PARKHOUSE, B.J.

PLEUVRY AND J.M.H. REES. C.V. Mosby Co., 1979. Price: \$21.00 Cdn.

PRACTICAL ANESTHETIC PHARMACOLOGY. RAFIK A. ATTIA AND ALAN W. GROGONO. New York, Appleton Century – Crofts, 1978. \$21.50 U.S.