Book Reviews

Cardiac Anesthesia, 4th ed.

Joel A. Kaplan, David L. Reich, Steven N. Konstadt (Eds.). W.B. Saunders Company, 1999. 1411 pages. \$419.00. ISBN 0-7216-7509-3

Despite its similarity in appearance and layout to previous editions, this fourth edition has been extensively revised and rewritten to reflect the rapid growth and recent advances in the fields of cardiac anesthesia and surgery since its previous publication in 1993. The authors state their aim is to maintain their position as the definitive reference textbook in their field, a goal that this edition easily surpasses.

In addition to two new associate editors (Drs. Reich and Konstadt) this edition has several new chapters and two new sections. The remaining original chapters have been reorganized and consolidated to optimize their clinical application. The previous seven sections have been replaced by eight which include: (1) *Preoperative Assessment and Management*, one of the only two sections to remain relatively unchanged but updated in content; (2) *Physiology and Molecular Biology*, a new subdivision of the old monitoring section but with the addition of two excellent chapters on molecular cardiovascular medicine and systemic inflammation; (3) *Monitoring*, brings together hemodynamic, electrocardiographic, intraoperative echocardiology, central nervous system and coagulation. The chapter on echocardiography has nearly doubled in length, with an impressive subsection on anatomy and TEE views accompanied with extensive photographs, each with its own artist's representation for clarity; (4) *Anesthetic Pharmacology* is, perhaps, the least changed section; (5) *Anesthetic Techniques for Cardiac Surgical Procedures*. Although the section chapters retain the same names, there have been considerable additions to each to address the recent important advances in cardiac surgery which include minimally invasive techniques such as MIDCAB and port-access CAB. Other new surgical procedures discussed include transmyocardial laser revascularization and the Batista procedure. The chapter on pacemakers has also been extensively rewritten and should be required reading for all personnel working with patients with implanted devices; (6) *Management of Cardiopulmonary Bypass and Associated Problems*, replaces support of the circulation and has been extensively rewritten and expanded.

The chapter on Cardiopulmonary Bypass and the Anesthesiologist now includes sections on special patient populations such as the gravid patient during bypass, the accidental hypothermia victim, intracranial aneurysm surgery and again minimally invasive techniques; (7) *Postoperative Care*: is another section that has been updated. The chapter on CNS dysfunction has been rewritten to include current concepts on neurological and neuropsychological dysfunction, and their assessment. The chapter on complications of cardiac surgery has been replaced by critical care medicine for the cardiac patient. This clinically oriented chapter is divided into immediate concerns upon arrival in the ICU, followed by late complications and endocrine issues: it is full of assessment and treatment algorithms, which are easy to follow and remember; (8) *Practice Management*: this new section has replaced that of anesthesia for the cardiac patient undergoing non-cardiac surgery, which has been deleted. It includes chapters on the impact of managed care on cardiac anesthesia, cost containment in anesthesia and cardiac surgery, quality of life and patient satisfaction surrounding cardiovascular surgery, and measuring and improving CABG surgery: New York's experience. Although of greatest interest to the American reader, these chapters still contain significant information (and warnings) for those with alternative medical systems.

This latest edition of Kaplan's *Cardiac Anesthesia* continues with the previous tradition of excellence. With the rapid changes currently occurring in the field of cardiac anesthesia and surgery, this is an important reference book for any department, not only Anesthesia, that cares for patients with cardiac disease undergoing surgery.

Fiona E. Ralley MD
Montreal, Quebec

Complications in Anesthesia

John L. Atlee. (Ed.). W.B. Saunders Company, 1999. 1005 pages. \$143.00. ISBN 0-7216-7161-6

This text has been written "to provide the busy anesthesia practitioner with practical, easy-to access, problem-focused information pertaining to all conceivable

complications of the contemporary practice of anesthesia". A hard claim to fulfill.

The book is divided into ten thumb-indexed sections; each with its own editor. There are 245 chapters or "problems" presented by an international group of authors. Each chapter begins with a brief case synopsis (the problem), followed by a problem analysis, then a discussion of its management and prevention. The references at the end of each chapter are limited to ten.

Overall, this is an excellent text. There is some unevenness in the presentations, which is expected in a book incorporating such a large number of authors. The writing is clear and concise with effective utilization of easy-to-read charts and tables. The use of diagrams and illustrations enhance the written text. The idea of intentionally limiting the number of references works well in providing the reader key articles to pursue if interested. The index is comprehensive.

This text would be a useful addition to the bookshelf of both community and academic anesthesiologists as well as residents in training. The case synopses could easily be incorporated into a "trouble rounds discussion" for teaching purposes. The authors are to be congratulated on fulfilling their initially mentioned claim in a manner which one can easily relate to one's clinical practice. This book is practical in its approach and, I hesitate to say in a book review of an anesthesia text, "enjoyable reading".

Kim E. Turner MD FRCPC
Kingston, Ontario

Q Base Anaesthesia: 4

Henry G.W. Pam. Oxford University Press Canada, 1998. 174 pages. \$56.95. ISBN: 1-900151-98-7

This text is a database of three hundred and ten multiple-choice questions on the following topics: physiology, pharmacology, physics and statistics. It is a review for a British examination - the Primary FRCA. Each multiple-choice question has five statements and the examinee must determine if a given statement is true or false. The text comes with a CD-ROM that needs an 80386 processor and 4 MB RAM as its minimal system requirements and will operate under Windows 3.1 as well as Windows 95.

The CD-ROM program offers several interesting options. You can sit a pre-programmed examination but it is also possible to create your own examination and select the number of questions from each category. The system randomizes the questions and your performance will be scored automatically. Another interesting option is the inclusion of a confidence rat-

ing on your answers. You are asked to rate how you feel about your answer; are you positive, did you make an educated guess or was it a complete guess? Your performance can subsequently be evaluated and enables you to see how often you are correct in each category. Hence, the program will test your knowledge base of a given topic as well as your exam-taking abilities. While writing an examination, you may also look at notes and references for a given question.

In summary, the questions from the database are well designed and provide good coverage of the above-mentioned topics. The CD-ROM program runs very smoothly and is "user-friendly". The evaluation of one's exam-taking abilities is an interesting option. However, the examination format is very different from that of North America and few subjects are covered.

Jean-François Courval MD
Montréal, Québec

Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine, 2nd ed.

John Schou. Harwood Academic Publishers, 1997. 432 pages. \$75.00 (US). ISBN 90-5702-003-3

This book is well written and pragmatic. The author, John Schou, is the Head of Anaesthesiology of the Lorrach District Hospital in Germany. The author clearly has an extensive experience in pre-hospital emergency medicine and provides many case studies to illustrate his points.

Pre-hospital medical systems are organized differently in Canada and Germany. In Germany, Emergency Medicine Physicians routinely perform procedures in the field and then accompany the patient back to the clinic. In urban centres in Canada, Emergency Physicians rarely work in the field. They provide on-line directions to paramedics in the field and then provide resuscitative care in the Emergency. In rural areas there are more similarities between German and the Canadian prehospital systems. General Practitioners provide care in the Emergencies and sometimes in the field in both systems.

There are considerable differences in the approach to the treatment of many conditions in Germany and Canada. Medications are routinely used in Germany which are not available in North America such as etomidate for sedation. Many of the therapeutic approaches described in this book are simply a different, but equally sound approach to therapeutic approaches commonly used in North America. However, I was concerned about some recommendations. It is stated that gastric lavage should be per-

formed at any time regardless of the time span after ingestion. This is not supported by the literature. Also physostigmine and flumazenil are recommended as antidotes but there is no mention of the association between these agents and life threatening cardiac dysrhythmias when given to a patient that has taken tricyclic antidepressants.

The chapter on mass accidents and disasters is well written. The author does a very good job of describing the communication and coordination problems which can occur.

In conclusion, this textbook is interesting and pragmatic. Physicians with an interest in pre-hospital care will find it useful.

Roy A. Purssell MD FRCPC
Vancouver, B.C.