Book reviews

Medical examination review: Anesthesiology sixth edition

Slack, S.J., DeKornfeld, T.J. Medical Examination Publishing Company, 1983, 317 pages, \$24.50 us

This soft cover book consists of 1060 multiple choice questions with answers and very short explanatory notes. The questions are all of the "A" or "K" type used in the Royal College Examinations. They are conveniently grouped according to ten areas of study. Although the questions are generally well constructed, many of the "K" type questions have design flaws. There were very few typographical errors noted.

A wide range of material is covered by the questions, although in some sections (e.g., anatomy, biochemistry), much of it is inappropriate to current curricula. The answers are inconveniently grouped at the back of the book and the explanatory notes are too short to be of much value. Only 32 references are cited with much of the material being taken from the ASA refresher course outlines.

This book would be helpful to residents preparing for their Royal College Examinations since good multiple choice practise questions are not readily available.

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A nurse's guide to anaesthesia, resuscitation and intensive care 7th edition

Donald Campbell, Alastair R. Spence. Churchill Livingstone, 1983. (Academic Press, Toronto) \$16.55

This recently revised British book, written for nursing staff involved in the "rapidly changing scene in anaesthesia and intensive care," fails to live up to the impressions its catchy title suggests. Implications for nursing care resulting from the methods employed by the anaesthetist, are not

easily drawn conclusions from the information presented. Therefore the main purpose, as stated in the preface, is not met.

Within the initial 20 pages the authors present a history of anaesthesia, its basic concepts and the methods utilized to provide analgesia and anaesthesia. Preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative care is addressed superficially and briefly. Considerable space of this illustrated 181-page book is devoted to nutrition, positioning, physiotherapy, respiratory and anaesthesia equipment, and specialized procedures such as tracheostomy and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Unfortunately the information in all areas is very basic and generalized (more in keeping with a beginning student's needs) and provides minimal value for today's critical care nurse.

Differences in procedural techniques from accepted practise in this country, as well as a traditional view of nursing function also detract from the usefulness of this book.

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