Book Reviews

Careers in Anesthesiology: Autobiographical Memoirs, Vol. III

B.R. Fink, K.E. McGoldrick (Eds.). Wood Library – Museum of Anesthesiology, 1999. 214 pages. \$35.00 (US). ISBN 1-889595-03-9

What a delightful venue from which to learn more about the history of our profession! This book is a compilation of five autobiographical memoirs from major role-players in the shaping of our profession spanning the 1930's to the present day. The contributors are: Stanley A. Feldman (United Kingdom); Carlos P. Parsloe (Brazil); Ephraim S. Siker, John E. Steinhaus and Peter M. Winter (United States).

These are not (for the most part) boring recollections of dates and events but personal stories of real people, sometimes touching and frequently humorous. The reader is able to view through the authors' eyes the evolution of anesthesia techniques from the time of open drop ether to the modern day. One is also led through the development of Anesthesiology as a recognized subspecialty of Medicine separate from the Department of Surgery. It is humbling to note that many of our current problems are not new. For example, it was recognized in the early 1960s that recruitment of residents was difficult which led to the initiation of medical student preceptorships to increase exposure to Anesthesiologists early on in Medical training. This is being redressed in many academic centres today.

This book should be part of the library of every University Department of Anesthesiology and would appeal to anyone with an interest in the history of medicine and our profession. An index would have benefited those wishing to use this as a reference source. The Wood Library Museum should be congratulated on preserving our heritage in such an accessible manner.

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Wolf-Heidegger's Atlas of Human Anatomy, 5th ed.
Petra Köpf-Maier (Ed.). S. Karger AG, 2000. Vol. I - 325 pages, Vol. II - 453 pages. \$130.50 (US). ISBN 3- 8055-5442-7

The fifth edition of Wolf-Heidegger's Atlas of Human Anatomy is presented in two volumes. The first volume

contains a brief "systems" approach to human anatomy (autonomic nervous system, digestive system etc.) and a comprehensive presentation of the musculoskeletal system. The second volume provides detailed anatomy of the head and neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis, CNS, eye and ear. The anatomy is presented as a combination of coloured and black and white drawings, photographs of autopsy specimens, and radiological images (CT and MR images, angiograms, ultrasound). The descriptive text is written in both German and English; the labels for anatomical structures are written in Latin.

The juxtaposition of appropriate radiological images with the anatomical drawings and specimen photographs is very helpful to anesthesiologists, many of whom are "occasional radiologists". The selection of radiological images has been made with the clinician in mind – for example, the renal section included all the phases of a normal renal arteriogram and the presentation of an intravenous pyelogram. The cardiac section included drawings and echocardiographic images through the imaging planes traditionally used to view the cardiac chambers and the valvular structures. The laryngeal anatomy is presented in detail, with laryngoscopic photographs of moderate quality. The anesthesiologist would appreciate some MR images of the larynx and upper airway instead of the rather fuzzy ultrasound images that are provided.

Peripheral anatomy is presented in a traditional "dissection approach" in which the structures are revealed layer-by-layer. The detail is excellent and the connection with surface anatomy approaches the quality achieved in anatomy texts specifically designed for regional anesthesia. The level of detail is greater than that usually required by the anesthesiologist.

This is an excellent atlas of human anatomy that deserves a place in any departmental library and will appeal to anesthesiologists whose practice requires a detailed understanding of anatomical structures and relationships.

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