Book Review

Careers in Anesthesiology, Autobiographical
Memoirs. Volume IV

Fink B. Raymond, McGoldrick E. Kathryn (Eds.).
Nicholas M. Greene, Erwin Lear, Jerome H. Modell,
Leroy D. Vandam. The Wood Library-Museum of
Anesthesiology, 2000. 181 pages. \$40.00 (US) ISBN
1-889595-04-7

This book is the fourth in a series of autobiographies and posthumous memoirs of senior anesthesiologists who have had interesting or distinguished careers. They are the brainchild of the late Dr. Raymond Fink and the ASA Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology. The memoirs vary in length, content, and literary style. Three of the four contributors to this volume served in the Second World War and all made major contributions to the development of American Anesthesiology in the decades that followed. They describe an era of struggles to establish residency and research programs in teaching centres, and the recognition of anesthesiology as a department rather than a division of surgery. Nicholas Greene was Professor and Chairman at Yale, a well-known researcher, and editor of *Anesthesiology* and *Anesthesia and Analgesia* over a period of 20 years. In later years he established the ASA overseas teaching program in Africa and was active in the Wood Library-Museum. Erwin Lear was a researcher but also a writer from his school days and edited the ASA newsletter until the late 1990s. Jerome Modell had a special interest in drowning and near drowning. In 1962 he lost 20 pounds from sea sickness in rough seas while waiting to pick up John Glenn from his proposed, delayed, and then rescheduled first orbiting of the earth! Leroy Vandam is a talented water colour artist and briefly considered making that his career. He set out to become a surgeon until he suffered repeated retinal hemorrhages that eventually required enucleation of one eye. He then gained fame in anesthesia, first at the University of Pennsylvania and later in Boston.

The four autobiographers are linked, not only by the era of their practice but by the number of contemporary American and other anesthesiologists whose names appear repeatedly through the book. This ongoing series gives a breadth and depth to the specialty and profession of which we are all a part and should be in every department library.

J. Roger Maltby MD
Calgary, Alberta