

BOOK REVIEW

PAEDIATRIC ANAESTHESIA. By H. T. DAVENPORT. Philadelphia: Lea and Febiger; Toronto: MacMillan. 1967. Pp. 178, illust. \$7.00.

THIS BOOK deals with the fundamental principles of paediatric anaesthesia. It is written by an anaesthetist who has a vast fund of knowledge to impart to anyone who would practice paediatric anaesthesia, whether he is a resident in training or one who is infrequently presented with an infant in an adult anaesthetic practice. It is filled with information and precise instruction which will be of great benefit to this type of reader, based on techniques which the author has obviously found over the years to be the most satisfactory way of managing various procedures and conditions.

The author stresses that anaesthesia for newborns and infants is not the same as for adults. He points out the physiological difficulties of these small patients, and the special approaches and techniques which must be used. But the general principle of good, safe anaesthesia for adults applies equally to children.

The material is presented in a logical fashion, dealing first with preoperative preparation and medication, then with apparatus, induction of anaesthesia, maintenance, anaesthesia for special and rare conditions, and the involvement and responsibilities of the anaesthetist outside of the operating room. Graphs and photographs aid in the presentation. References for this material would have been useful.

As the author states in the preface, this book is not intended for the examination candidate who requires a greater knowledge of the conditions one might face in paediatric anaesthesia. For those individuals who are involved mainly in paediatric anaesthetic practice, it is unfortunate that the more rare and exotic conditions are not dealt with in more detail.

D.A.P.