

Book Reviews

Clinical Anesthesia

Paul G. Barash, Bruce F. Cullen, Robert K. Stoelting (Eds.). J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1989. pp. 1575. Illustrations 403. \$95.00 U.S. ISBN 0-397-50836-0

The anaesthesia literature market has seen a recent upsurge in the number of different general anaesthesia textbooks. One of the difficulties potential purchasers (and reviewers) have is to decide which one to use, as all are generally of good quality. However, each seems to be deficient in one or two areas that would truly make the book exceptional. *Clinical Anesthesia* fits into this category. The textbook is long, 1574 pages, written in smallish print and has 86 contributors. It is divided into five major sections – Introduction; Pharmacology; Preparation for Anesthesia; Management of Anesthesia; and Post Anesthesia and Consultant Practice. The editors are to be congratulated in choosing contributors, who for the most part have produced chapters of clarity and detail yet which are brief and readable. There is also remarkable uniformity in approach which allows one to move relatively easily from one chapter to another. Many of the references are as recent as 1987, with one or two contributors actually including 1988 references. A very pleasing aspect of this book was the avoidance by most contributors of the “we use this technique” approach. Rather, they have chosen to discuss different approaches in management which provide sufficient information for both resident and consultant to compare their own experience. The chapters on Pharmacology and Physiology are also well written. I was particularly impressed with the chapter on Physics Applied to Anesthesia which provided enough formulae for the mathematically inclined, but is written in clear enough terms so that mere mortals can understand the principles and applications. There are some minor criticisms. These include a rather brief review of reversal of neuromuscular blockade and its pharmacology; the absence of any in-depth discussion on epidemiological methods and their application in anaesthesia and the lack of any comment on the infant or child with a recent upper respiratory tract infection. I was disappointed that the problems and management of cardiac patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery and respiratory patients with histories of smoking or chronic obstructive airflow disease were not dealt with in any substantive way. My final criticism is the

fact that this book is obviously geared to North American anaesthetists. While this may be the intent, the inclusion of some European and far eastern approaches and philosophies coupled with correction of the deficiencies noted above would raise this book into the exceptional class.

In summary, this is an extremely well written textbook. It is worth purchasing for those looking for an excellent general book on clinical anesthesia.

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Resuscitation of the Newborn

Part 1 – Basic Resuscitation

Part 2 – Advanced Resuscitation

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London, England, 1989. £4 each or £7 for both parts.

ISBN 0 902331 47 7 (Part 1); ISBN 0 902331 48 5 (Part 2);

ISBN 0 902331 49 3 (Parts 1 & 2 as complete set)

These two handbooks have been prepared under the direction of the Standing Advisory Committee of the College of Anaesthetists and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in the United Kingdom. The handbooks are designed to be used on all obstetrical units both by nurses and physicians. Each volume is small and could conveniently be carried in a clinic coat pocket.

Part 1 outlines the need for and the practical steps of immediate resuscitation of the neonate including the equipment required. The assessment of the newborn is clearly set down both in the text and in a flow chart at the end. It includes not only what you should do but also what you should not do. This is a very important feature of the handbook. The equipment described is, I assume, what is commonly used in Great Britain and differs in detail from that used in North America, i.e., the use of oxygen funnels, intermittent pressure devices. Apart from this, the descriptions and illustrations are excellent. The illustrations concerning head positioning and mask application are particularly well done.

Part 2 explains the more advanced resuscitation techniques including tracheal intubation, catheterization of the umbilical vein and administration of drugs such as sodium bicarbonate, adrenalin and calcium gluconate. Here again there are variances from practices on this

continent, e.g., the use of Cole endotracheal tubes, but the steps on how to perform advanced procedures are clearly and logically laid out. Part 2 also contains practical advice on detection of common congenital anomalies and has a section on decision-making for resuscitation. This section is excellent.

Despite some minor differences in types of equipment this is one of the best "how to" manuals I have seen. The text is clear, straightforward and logical. It is a valuable two-booklet set for medical students, nurses and physicians who are not routinely involved with neonatal intensive care.

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Drug Treatment of Cancer Pain in a Drug-Oriented Society

(Advances in Pain Research and Therapy – Volume 11)
C. Stratton Hill, Jr., William S. Fields (Eds.). Raven Press, Ltd., New York, 1989. pp. 400. \$86.00 U.S.
ISBN 0-88167-519-9

My first reaction to this title was that this would be a diatribe against doctors who did not know or care how to treat cancer pain properly. To some extent, this is true of this symposium report; the main references to support the contention that drug treatment is inadequate are more than ten years old. Indeed, in reporting a recent study from Wisconsin which purports to show that treatment is still inadequate, the author reported that younger, properly trained physicians were more likely to treat cancer pain adequately. However, there are other very interesting chapters examining why it is difficult to change well-established prescribing habits. The chapter by Morgan on Customary Under-utilization should be read by all persons trying to teach appropriate use of analgesics whether it be to nurses, doctors, etc.

This book pertains particularly to American society and to a lesser extent to that of Canada, England and Australia. It is one of the series *Advances in Pain Research and Therapy*, and this volume is up to the usual high standards of the series. Anaesthetists, especially those treating pain will be aware of most of the pharmacological information reviewed in this text but chapters on "‘Decriminalization’ of Cancer Pain" by Kathleen Foley, "Pain Management and the Values of Health Care Providers," by Edwards, a philosopher, and "Differences in Perception of Pain and the Development of Adversarial Relationships Among Health Care Providers," by McCaf-

ferey and Thorpe, nurses, although mostly of interest to anaesthetists working in pain clinics, would provide interesting reading for any anaesthetist with an interest in the broader aspects of the specialty.

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