

BOOK REVIEWS

PEDIATRIC ANESTHESIA CASE STUDIES. 29 Case Histories Related to Pediatric Anesthesia by JOHN G. ADAMS, M.D., Flushing, N.Y., Medical Examination Publishing Company, Inc., 1976.

THIS POCKET-SIZED case book of 199 pages, reports a series of 29 different paediatric cases. Each case represents a child with a common paediatric problem, who may require anaesthesia. Each study consists of the clinical history, physical examination and laboratory findings, with approximately 15 to 20 multiple choice questions. To answer these questions requires detailed knowledge of the clinical, pathological, laboratory, or anaesthetic aspects of the case, and provides an examination in depth of each problem.

The book contains a representative series of cases with well-chosen questions which reveal any gaps in the reader's knowledge. The only criticism concerns a few of the answers selected by the author which are somewhat arbitrary and controversial. A short explanation is offered in a few instances, explaining why controversial answers were selected.

This book is highly recommended to all anaesthesiologists who may be involved in paediatric anaesthesia.

A.W.C.

SELF-ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT KNOWLEDGE IN ANAESTHESIA by DAVID L. TRICKEY, M.B., F.F.A.R.C.S., Medical Examination Publishing Co., Inc., 65-36 Fresh Meadow Lane, Flushing, New York 11365, 1976. Price \$10.00.

THIS BOOK contains 1,142 major types of multiple choice questions. These questions are grouped into appropriate subject categories. Each question is followed by a reference and the answer is located in the back of the book. The author uses recent references in order to produce questions that are current and topical. The stems of the questions and the detractors for the most part are well constructed and purposeful.

This book is valuable to those wishing to become familiar with multiple choice questions, and to those preparing for this type of examination. It is important to emphasize to the reader that he should utilize the references and discuss the topic and questions for complete and full understanding. A correct answer does not necessarily imply comprehension of a subject.

R.L.M.

TRACHEAL INTUBATION by EDWARD L. APPLEBAUM AND DAVID L. BRUCE, Toronto, W.B. Saunders Company Canada Limited, 1976. Price \$9.80.

THIS EXCELLENT LITTLE MONOGRAPH covers some very important ground. The easy to read uncomplicated text clearly describes the four methods of tracheal intubation and the radiographs, photographs and line sketches complement the written word.

Although intended for wider distribution amongst workers in the fields of intensive care and cardiopulmonary resuscitation this book will be of special interest to senior medical students and physicians. In particular, it will be of value to the doctor in practice in the isolated community.

To have available in such concise form such good descriptions of these life-saving procedures can only be an asset to any medical library.

J.W.K.

LOCAL ANESTHETICS – Mechanisms of Action and Clinical Use by BENJAMIN G. COVINO AND HELEN G. VASSALLO. Grune and Stratton Inc.: Toronto, Longman Canada Ltd., 1976. 173 pages. Price \$15.50.

THE MECHANISM of action of general anaesthetics is still hypothetical; this is not so for local anaesthetics. Our understanding of the action of local anaesthetics is based on knowledge of membrane physiology and membrane pharmacology. Many compounds have local anaesthetic properties but their mechanisms of action are different. The authors of this monograph have successfully presented a comprehensive account of the actions of these compounds.

From the theory of mechanism of action to clinical use is a giant step. Again the authors have lucidly presented the rationale of clinical practice. The practice of the Art with a firm foundation in the Science is stressed. This book can be recommended for all serious practitioners of regional anaesthesia.

This monograph is the first of a series entitled "The Scientific Basis of Clinical Anesthesia". It is hoped that subsequent volumes will be just as illuminating.

D.C.

NOTFALLMEDIZIN (Emergency Medicine). Edited by F.W. AHNEFELD, H. BERGMANN, C. BURRI, W. DICK, M. HALMAGYI, E. RUCHEIMER. From: Anaesthesiologie und Intensivtherapie volume 10, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1976.

THIS 386-PAGE BOOK concerned with management of emergency situations in medicine is divided into 5 sections. 31 authors contributed.

Parts I and II outline principles or organization of the primary treatment team at the site of a disaster. Protection of the team against fire, electrical hazards, and poisonous gases is discussed. Proper positioning of patients suffering various injuries are illustrated and described. The ABC's of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation are emphasized.

Part III constitutes the major part of this book and deals with emergency treatment by various medical specialists. This reviewer found three papers of special interest in this section. One paper is concerned with the problems of extreme pressure changes, e.g. high altitude, underground or sub-aquatic accidents. The second describes the hazards of accidents at hydro electric stations, power lines and electrical equipment not only for the injured but also for the first aid team. The third paper deals with accidents due to contamination with radio active materials by the victims and again the first aid team. All papers are instructive and up to date.

Part IV deals with management of emergencies by the special rescue team at the site of the emergency and en route to a sophisticated hospital. It describes the equipment required and means of establishing adequate telecommunication between the disaster area and the team at the hospital. A special paper on the treatment of pain is included in this section.

Part V consists of multiple choice questions which allow the reader to assess his/her comprehension of the material presented.

One is impressed with the amount of information contained in this book. The scope of the topics ranges from common emergencies to the rare but still important trauma and illness requiring perceptive, efficient and prompt medical attention and action. The style and approach to problems varies from author to author. Some authors give analogues for better understanding while others present their material in concisely organized outlines. This change of pace makes the reading of this book quite pleasurable.

Unfortunately the usefulness of this volume is limited by the absence of an index.

B.K.