

Book Reviews

Positioning in Anesthesia and Surgery

John T. Martin, Mark A. Warner (Eds.). W.B. Saunders Company, 1997. 334 pages. \$109.00. ISBN 0-7216-6674-4

This is the third edition of what has been recognised in its previous versions as an unique and very useful textbook. Almost two decades after the first edition, this third edition includes major changes from the previous, which had retained the basic structure of the initial publication.

The senior Editor Dr. J.T. Martin, who has had a very long special interest in the subject and who was the sole Editor of the first two editions has been joined by Dr. M.A. Warner of Mayo Medical School. Whereas in earlier editions each topic was addressed by both a surgeon and an anaesthetist, this edition eliminates the sections written by surgeons, with positive results. While the textbook will still be of interest to surgeons and surgical trainees, it is likely the primary audience will be anaesthetic practitioners and trainees. The new emphasis is therefore welcome!

The text is divided into 21 chapters within eight sections. The organisation is logical and easy to follow. The degree of repetition has been reduced to a level that can be classified as both unavoidable and acceptable for a multi-authored text. The text is very readable and the physical quality of the book is high. As with the earlier editions the large number of very clear illustrations is a strength.

This text belongs in the library of every anaesthesia department. It deserves to be read and reread, both by established practitioners and trainees. It continues to be a unique and invaluable reference source for authoritative information on positioning in anaesthesia and surgery.

Douglas B. Craig MD FRCPC
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Pediatric Trauma Anesthesia and Critical Care

J.K. Hall, Jeffrey M. Berman (Eds.). Futura Publishing Co. Inc., 1996. 507 pages. \$98.00 (US) ISBN 0-87993-624-X

This 500-page volume aims to provide clinicians with sound physiological and clinical principles so that they may better care for and treat the injured child. These aims are admirably and succinctly achieved. The premise

of the text is that traumatised children require expert and special care. In addition, the authors are persuasive advocates for the critically injured child. Let us hope that those responsible for the organisation and distribution of health care heed their arguments.

As, the authors state, each year trauma claims more lives of children than cancer. Therefore, this is an important book, not only, for anaesthetists and critical care physicians, but also, paediatricians and emergency room doctors. This is especially true of the first ten and last three chapters. Each chapter is well organised with frequent subheadings, useful line drawings, algorithms, tables and well referenced with up to date sources. The book focuses on the unique requirements of children and is composed of 20 chapters which lead the reader through the epidemiology of paediatric trauma, preliminary assistance and management of the trauma victim at the scene of the accident through transport to hospital. A series of sections dealing with specific organ related injury follows with an important chapter on the management of acute pain in the traumatised child and ending with rehabilitation of the injured child and the logistics of organising an effective trauma team.

This book summarises and highlights the growth in knowledge of care of the injured child. The book is easy and rewarding to read and offers an excellent well referenced multidisciplinary approach to the injured child without the daunting heaviness of a large textbook. The book will serve well both tyro and veteran in the field and thus the injured children to whom it is dedicated.

Ian Adatia MD
Toronto, Ontario

Review for Intensive Care Medicine

Mark W. Sebastian, William J. Fulkerson, R. Lawrence Reed II. Lippincott-Raven Publishers, 1997. 269 pages. \$49.95 (US) ISBN 0-316-73633-3

This soft cover book is a collection of about 700 questions and answers, based on the parent critical care textbook "Intensive Care Medicine" by Rippe *et al.* The three authors of the review book are two surgeons and an internist from Duke University Medical Center.

The review questions are grouped into 18 sections on subjects such as renal problems in the ICU, overdose and poisoning, endocrine problems in the ICU,

etc. The questions are organised and referenced in a format that allows easy cross-referencing to the appropriate chapter in the two volume main textbook. Compared with similar review books, there are relatively few case scenario problems with the majority of questions being multiple choice or true/false questions. There are no ECG or X-rays included and laboratory values are not in SI units. The answers are clearly explained in paragraph format and are mostly very accurate, although there are a few obvious misprints (eg., $80 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ *po*. Prednisone as initial adjunctive treatment of pneumocystis carinii pneumonia on p. 98).

The foreword by Rippe recommends this book particularly for those "preparing for the critical care boards." Current Canadian trainees, however, cannot write the ABA examination in critical care without being ABA certified in anaesthesia which requires US training. There are at least four major North American authored textbooks of critical care. If "Intensive Care Medicine" (3rd ed) is in your possession, then this companion book could be of use as an adjunct to reading and studying.

Simon Abrahamson MD FRCPC
Toronto, Ontario