

## Book Reviews

### **Abnormalities of respiration during sleep**

*E.C. Fletcher* (Editor). Grune & Stratton Inc. 1986.  
ISBN 0-8089-1812-5 (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich,  
Canada, Don Mills) \$57.50

This multiauthored book attempts to provide medical practitioners with a comprehensive guide to sleep-related breathing disorders. A large body of literature has grown in the 16 years since the first description of obstructive sleep apnoea, and a number of books have been published recently on this subject.

This book discusses the history, clinical manifestations, pathophysiology and treatment of these disorders, both medical and surgical (though somewhat surprisingly the latter discussion was written by an internist). It further discusses the influence of lung disease and non-pulmonary diseases on sleep-related breathing disorders and finishes with a discussion of sudden infant death syndrome.

Although style varies with individual authors, the book is easy to read and provides a single source of information on its subject, as do a number of similar books published recently. However, for anaesthetists, there is almost no information on perioperative care, no recommendation regarding anaesthesia, or mention of the Recovery Room initial presentation of these disorders.

In summary, the book provides a readable single-volume guide on sleep breathing disorders. The information presented would be known to researchers in this area and, though it may be useful in departmental libraries, the insufficient information on perioperative care prevents my recommending this book to individual anaesthetists.

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### **Pulmonary function tests in clinical and occupational lung disease**

*Albert Miller, M.D.* (Editor). Grune & Stratton Inc. 1986.  
ISBN 0-8089-1724-2 (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich,  
Canada, Don Mills) \$97.25

Yet another book on clinically orientated lung function. There have been at least five similar books published over the past five years. While occupational lung disease is

included in the title, this specific subject has been dealt with in at least two of the previous books.

The stated market for this book is probably too broad, that is a range extending from medical personnel to attorneys-at-law. In one sense the detail is too limited while in another it is too much.

Most of this book is taken up by presentation of standard clinical pulmonary physiology. However, the chapters dealing with occupational lung disease (including epidemiology) and computer algorithms for interpretation of lung function are presented here in more depth and clarity than elsewhere in similar books.

I find it difficult to anticipate what precise role this book will fill. Perhaps it might serve as an introduction to major works in the fields of occupational lung disease and pulmonary physiology.

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### **Emergency Anaesthesia**

*Anthony P. Adams, Penelope B. Hewitt, Mark C. Rogers* (Editors). Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd., London,  
Eng. 1986 £12.75

This multiauthored book attempts to condense a text-book-sized subject into a handbook-sized volume, aimed at a small target readership. While virtually every anaesthetist must deal with emergency cases, this book "is designed to be of particular value to anaesthetists in training, to those who do not have ready access to a wide range of reference books, and to those working in difficult situations or in developing countries."

*Emergency Anaesthesia* is a pocket manual (approximately 12 × 20 cm, 361 pages) intended to be kept readily available. Several brief introductory chapters outline topics of a general nature, such as "General Principles of Emergency Anaesthesia," "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation," "Intravenous Fluids," and "Practical Procedures," and these are followed by many more equally brief chapters devoted to a range of clinical emergency situations. The content assumes that the reader has prior knowledge of and experience with anaesthesia, and "aims to emphasize the basic principles of safe and successful patient care."

References were deliberately kept to a minimum. Many chapters contain short sections on relevant pathophysiology. Especially noteworthy are the chapters on "Major Vascular Surgery" and "Obstetric Emergencies," in particular the section on "Failed Intubation Drill." There are as well two interesting, but sketchy, chapters on "Military Conflicts and Civil Disasters," and "Anaesthesia in Developing Countries."

Due to its mainly British authorship, there are many references to anaesthetic agents which are either not available, or not widely used in Canada. There is an error in the formula for arterial oxygen content in Table 11.1.

As mentioned, the editors and contributors, who are predominantly from the United Kingdom, but also from the United States, designed the book to be useful to anaesthetists in training. Indeed, in Britain and to a lesser extent in the U.S., where anaesthesia trainees are required to function relatively independently from an early stage of their training, the book would be valuable. However, for residents in Canadian programs, who tend to work under the immediate supervision of experienced staff anaesthetists, and to whom assistance and advice are readily available (as are comprehensive and authoritative reference texts), a book such as this would serve little purpose, and I cannot recommend it. Nevertheless the book concisely presents a great deal of practical information, which would indeed, as the authors had intended, be an asset to the "occasional" anaesthetist and to the practitioner of anaesthesia in a rural setting.

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