Book & New Media Reviews

Careers in Anesthesiology IX: Three Pioneer British Anaesthetists

Donald Caton, Kathryn E. McGoldrick (Eds). \$30 US. Park Ridge, Illinois: The Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, 2005. ISBN 1-889595-09-8

This ninth volume of the Wood Library Museum's Careers in Anesthesiology series chronicles the lives of three British anaesthetists: Sirs Ivan Macgill, Robert Macintosh and Geoffrey Organe; all distinguished for their significant contributions by knighthood. The volume is authored by their colleagues Drs. Anthony Edridge, Sir Keith Sykes and Stanley Freedman, respectively.

Sirs Macgill and Macintosh, whose names continue to be synonymous with their endotracheal blades, were responsible for advancements to anesthesia as a profession, as well as to its techniques and equipment. Some of their highlighted contributions include: Magill's commitment to providing inhalational anesthesia via the nasotracheal tube, for scarred survivors of World War II. This experience, under very challenging circumstances, led to the development of his Magill forceps, and his description of the ideal head position as "sniffing the morning air" or, perhaps more characteristically, (and more readily pictured for some) "draining a pint of beer". Macintosh's fascinating experiments to simulate high altitude parachute jumps to establish a safe altitude for the airborne regiments, assisted in the design of life jackets to ensure unconscious airmen did not drown while floating face down, and his recognition of the need to examine and publish anesthetic deaths, despite considerable opposition to do so, are detailed in this volume. Sir Organe conducted research on intravenous pentothal and neuromuscular relaxants, and played a key role in the formation of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons, as well as the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists. All three individuals were influential in the early establishment of anesthesia as a recognized specialty, and generously provided mentorship to those who were to follow in their footsteps.

This notable addition to the 'Careers' series will enlighten the modern reader who wishes to appreciate the contribution of these three British knights to the

recognition of anesthesia as a specialty, and development of anesthetic techniques in Britain surrounding the Second World War.

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ERRATA

In the Letter to the Editor entitled: "An unusual case of hemolysis" in the December 2002 issue, *Can J Anesth* 2002; 49: 1098-1101, the name of the second author should read Harris V.K. Naina.

In the manuscript entitled: Comparison of laryngeal mask airway (LMA)-Proseal™ and the LMA-Classic™ in ventilated children receiving neuromuscular blockade" in the January 2008 issue, *Can J Anesth* 2008; 55: 29-35, on the last line of Table II, Satisfactory view, the CLMA group column 21/25 (84%) and the PLMA group column 10/25 (40%) have been transposed. The CLMA group column should read 10/25 (40%) and the PLMA group column should read 21/25 (84%).