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## Book Reviews

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### **Near Misses in Neuro-Anesthesia**

*Garfield B. Russell, Arthur J. Cronin, Stephen Longo, Terri W. Blackburn (Eds.). Butterworth-Heinemann 2002, 194 pages. \$34.99 US. ISBN 0-7506-7065-7*

It is unfortunate that the title of this book will likely narrow the potential readership as the majority of subject matter in fact has broad general applicability. After all, the differential diagnosis and management of high airway pressure, low saturation or arrhythmias are common to all branches of anesthetic practice.

This book is the third in the "Near Misses" series. The book is divided into four sections - Airway Events, Cardiac Events, Miscellaneous Perioperative Events and Neurophysiological Events. There are further divisions into categories such as Alterations in Airway Pressures, Awake Intubation, Alterations in Blood Pressure and Electrocardiogram, Changes in Somatosensory Evoked Potentials. There are total of 50 cases each divided into three segments - The Case Scenario, the Solution and the Discussion. The editors have attempted to maintain the relatively informal flavour of departmental morbidity and mortality rounds or a one on one discussion between consultant and trainee. This makes the book easy, interesting and at times entertaining reading but does also unfortunately allow for unevenness in the quality and quantity of information in the Discussion. The Discussion would have benefited from a greater use of tables or algorithms and the references, while appropriate, are almost all to other standard textbooks.

This book provides food for thought and makes learning easy. It was enjoyed, found informative and recommended by the sampling of colleagues, residents and OR nurses who looked at it with me.

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### **Notable Names in Anaesthesia**

*Roger Maltby (Ed). The Royal Society of Medicine Press Ltd., 2002. 254 pages. ISBN 1-85315-512-8*

Medicine is replete with names of famous figures, and anesthesia is no exception. The many aspects of anesthesia identified by eponyms are equipment, techniques, complications, scoring systems, and lectures. Dr. Maltby has assembled no fewer than 76 epony-

mous items and has written some accounts of them himself and has invited individuals whose names are eponymously known to write about particular topics. Not all the names are anesthesiologists'; surgeons, internists, a psychologist, a physicist, equipment manufacturers, and judges, among others, are included. The book will therefore have wide appeal, but much for anesthesiologists.

The book is well written and fully illustrated. It provides information that is always interesting, detail without trivia, and humour without flippancy. No one could read the book without learning something. The care taken in its production is evident from the virtual absence of errors. I noticed only one error; Alfred Lee was awarded the Hickman Medal in 1975, not 1976. A case could be made for including names not mentioned: Cushing and anaesthesia records, Gillies and hypotension, and Lundy and balanced anesthesia, for example. To conclude, Dr. Maltby's book deserves a place in all departmental libraries and would certainly not be out of place in any anesthesiologist's individual collection.

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