

those who wish an account of the pulmonary blood and capillary volumes studied in a large group of patients under varying conditions, as being easily readable, well presented and not unduly expensive.

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Anesthesia for Infants and Children. By ROBERT M. SMITH. Pp. 530. Saint Louis, The C. V. Mosby Company, 1968. Cloth, \$17.50.

Over the last several years, the anesthesiologist who has devoted himself to children has made important contributions to Pediatrics in the areas of newborn resuscitation and in the management of the acute illnesses of children. In addition, he has played a leading role in the treatment of respiratory distress and failure.

A monograph or textbook on pediatric anesthesia is a necessary part of the basic library of every anesthesiologist who, while serving the total community, must also have the special skill and knowledge to treat the young members of that community.

The third edition of Robert Smith's book, enlarged and updated, has been designed to fulfill that need. The chapter arrangements and format are identical with the 1963 edition. All of the issues of modern pediatric anesthesia are covered in the textbook as well as many subjects no longer relevant, e.g., pp. 141-142, Tribromoethanol (Avertin) dosage scale and a picture of equipment for its preparation.

Smith writes with advantageous qualifications. He has the perspective of early creative leadership in pediatric anesthesia as well as the responsibility for the enormous and varied pediatric services at the Children's Hospital of Boston. He is a good scholar and an impartial observer of the anesthesia scene.

One of the most valuable aspects of this text is the bibliography at the end of each chapter. This is the only available source in which a complete pediatric anesthesia bibliography can be found.

The 31 chapters could have been more logically organized. The first 16 are concerned with general subjects of pediatric anesthesia; the next eight are cook-book manuals concerning the management of specific surgical problems; and the final seven chapters relate to the general subjects of pediatric anesthesia. Some of the chapters might have been improved by being combined. For example, Chapter 4, "Preparing Children for Operation," and Chapter 5, "Preoperative Medication," could be consolidated.

The quality and depth of the chapters are uneven. The first chapter, "Biology and Behavior," is basically a good chapter that suffers from being updated rather than rewritten. Chapter 2, "Respiratory Physiology," is an outstanding review of pediatric respiratory physiology by Charles Cook and Etsuro Motoyama. At the other extreme is Chapter 11, "Normal Recovery," which

offers little more than the obvious "... avoid hypoxia and hypotension." Although most of the new concepts of the last five years have been included, the author does not seem to accept the changes fully.

The writing suffers from irrelevant wordiness throughout. On p. 137, four lines of type are required to tell the anesthetist to wash his hands; on p. 182, seven lines are devoted to common-sense operating room etiquette. Again, on p. 137, in a chapter concerned with the techniques of induction of general anesthesia, a full paragraph is devoted to preoperative medication.

Illogical organization, inadequate editing, and verbosity have made what might have been an excellent monograph into one that is difficult to use. Significant facts and important advice is often hidden within irrelevant and redundant statements.

However, despite its shortcomings, this book belongs in the total anesthesia library.

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The 1968 Yearbook of Anesthesia. Edited by STUART C. CULLEN. Chicago, Yearbook Medical Publishers. Pp. 399, 73 figures. \$10.00.

This is an excellent compendium of abstracts and references of articles of importance to anesthesiologists published during the 12 months ending May 1968. The publisher and editor scan the medical literature for the year and select those papers which appear to be of significance to the field. About 360 articles in all are abstracted and about 60 per cent have a brief comment appended by the editor. The articles are gathered in sections under the headings of "Circulation," "Respiration," "Depressant Drugs," "Inhalation Agents and Techniques," "Relaxants," "Local and Regional Anesthesia," "Obstetric Anesthesia," and "Miscellaneous." A good mixture of clinical medicine and basic science is represented. The major proportion of the articles are from English language journals and perhaps as many as 70 per cent are from non-anesthesia journals.

This is a valuable book for perusal by the anesthesiologist who wishes to "freshen up" the basic science knowledge of his speciality and keep up with current practical concepts of medical practice. While it is difficult to know if the coverage of all the literature is complete, one could hardly fail to improve and update his knowledge by reading the book. The abstracts are, on the whole, good and liberally illustrated.

It is unfortunate there are not more editorial comments—those that are present are witty and pertinent. How does a dean find time to do work like this when most deans spend their time arguing with students, faculty, administrators and politicians? The reviewer's hat is off to Stu Cullen.

The book is well produced. The paper is of good quality with very readable print. There is a good index. The book is recommended to all who