

## Book Reviews

**Techniques of Anaesthesia.** By J. A. THORNTON AND C. J. LEVY. New York, Halsted Press, 1974. Pages: 481. Price: \$22.50.

This book is "aimed at guidance on practical day to day anaesthesia with less emphasis on background therapy." True to their purpose, the authors have written an eminently practical book. Its 16 chapters, which cover every major aspect of surgical and obstetrical anaesthesia, and respiratory intensive care, contain a wealth of practical advice, sound, direct and detailed as can be provided only a good teacher with a long and varied clinical experience. Herein lies the strength of the book.

The description of anesthetic techniques and apparatus is integrated with a modicum of background physiology and pharmacology. Here, unfortunately, the authors have not been as felicitous, for their style tends to be unclear. The reader is likely to be confused by statements such as "Neuromuscular blocking agents will not only facilitate controlled respiration but also prevent shivering; however, the altered response to these agents of reduction of body temperature should be borne in mind. *d*-Tubocurarine decreases in sensitivity with reduction in temperature whereas suxamethonium has the opposite effect."

The material is well presented, but has not been sufficiently carefully proofread. A fair number of typographical errors are to be found throughout the text; only four of them have been emended on an erratum sheet. The book ends with useful examples of consent forms, a table of normal values, and an adequate index. In spite of some drawbacks, it will be helpful to the experienced practitioner faced with an unfamiliar problem. It also can be read with profit by the beginner, provided he keeps a standard textbook alongside for consultation.

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**Pain Relief in Labour.** Second edition. By D. D. MOIR. New York, Longman, Inc., 1973. Pages: 150. Price: \$4.50.

The author intends this paperback to provide midwives with sufficient understanding and facts for the management of pain in labor, but it really constitutes only an introduction to the subject. In places it is already out-of-date; for example, the section on narcotic antagonists makes no reference

to naloxone. Although the preface leads one to expect "considerable detail on the subjects of resuscitation and general anaesthesia," references to these topics are sparse indeed. There is nothing on the management of the newborn, especially the newborn requiring resuscitation.

The section on regional analgesia contains far too little physiology and pathophysiology, considering that "topping-up" of extradural analgesia is permitted to midwives in the United Kingdom, and paracervical and pudendal block is performed by midwives in this country. The style is pleasantly easy, but references are almost nonexistent. This introduction to analgesia for midwives is therefore at best a bare-bones review for those who have had more intense training.

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**Essentials of Anesthetic Practice.** By S. C. CULLEN AND C. P. LARSON, JR. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, 1974. Pages: 348. Price: \$16.95.

Every author of a textbook wishes to present the maximum amount of information in the fewest possible pages. Doctors Cullen and Larson intend their book as a manual for the student or neophyte physician studying anaesthesia, for the non-physician anesthetists, and for the general practitioners who sometimes administer anesthetics.

For this audience, the goals have been met very reasonably. Particularly impressive is the repeated emphasis on tailoring the anesthetic to the specific needs of the individual patient. Sufficient fundamentals are presented to provide the basis for individualization of anesthetic care. On the other hand, considerable space is devoted to the technical details of anaesthesia, even down to a detailed discussion of venipuncture. The print is large and crisp, typographical errors seem nonexistent, and the many figures and graphs are simple yet illustrative. The maximum dosage of local anesthetics, however, is given as an absolute number, rather than in milligrams per kilo of body weight. Such minor criticisms notwithstanding, this book should be very useful to those for whom it is intended.

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## Books Received

(Note: Many of these books will be reviewed in subsequent issues of ANESTHESIOLOGY. Readers are invited to bring interesting new titles to the Review Editor's attention—B. R. Fink)

| Title & Edition  | Author/Editor                             | Publisher  | Pages | Price   |
|--|---|--|-------|---------|
| Current Pediatric Diagnosis & Treatment<br>Third edition | C. H. Kempe<br>H. K. Silver<br>D. O'Brien | Los Altos<br>Lange Medical<br>Publications<br>1974 | 1,020 | \$12.00 |

| Title & Edition  | Author/Editor   | Publisher   |  | Pages | Price   |
|--|---|---|--|-------|---------|
|  |   | Address, Name, Year   |  |       |         |
| <i>Comprehensive review of practical considerations, including such matters as fluid and electrolyte management, poisoning, and interpretation of laboratory tests.</i>  |   |   |  |       |         |
| <b>Current Medical Diagnosis &amp; Treatment</b>   | M. A. Krupp   | Los Altos<br>Lange Medical<br>Publications<br>1975                |  | 1044  | \$13.50 |
| <i>Reference guide to diagnosis and therapy in daily practice, with new chapters on fluid and electrolyte disorders, infectious disease, diabetes and other subjects.</i>  |   |   |  |       |         |
| <b>Review of Medical Physiology</b><br>Seventh edition   | W. F. Ganong  | Los Altos<br>Lange Medical<br>Publications<br>1975                |  | 587   | \$10.50 |
| <i>Concise summary of human physiology with 500 illustrations and 100 tables, and numerous examples from clinical medicine.</i>  |   |   |  |       |         |
| <b>Advances in Neurology</b><br>Volume 10. Primate Models of<br>Neurological Disorders   | B. S. Meldrum<br>C. D. Marsden<br>(Editors)                           | New York<br>Raven Press<br>1975                                   |  | 362   | PNS     |
| <i>Section on motor disorders, epilepsy, cerebrovascular disorders, ciruses, and metabolic and degenerative disorders, containing clinically significant work that could be appropriately conducted only in nonhuman primates.</i> |   |   |  |       |         |
| <b>Adenine Arabinoside: An Antiviral Agent</b>   | D. Pavan-Langston<br>R. A. Buchanan<br>C. A. Alford, Jr.<br>(Editors) | New York<br>Raven Press<br>1975                                   |  | 425   | \$21.50 |
| <i>Record of the 1974 symposium on a new antiviral agent effective in the treatment of herpes infections of the conjunctiva, cornea, and stroma.</i>   |   |   |  |       |         |
| <b>International Hemodilution.</b><br>Volume 41: Proceedings of the<br>Second International Sym-<br>posium held in Germany, Oct.<br>1974   | K. Messmer<br>H. Schmid-Schönbein<br>(Editors)                        | Basel, Switzerland<br>S. Karger AG Med. &<br>Scient. Pub.<br>1975 |  | 310   | \$40.00 |
| <i>24 papers by anesthesiologists, internists, physiologists and surgeons, presented at the Second International Symposium, in Germany in 1974. With discussions and indexes. Paperback.</i>                                       |   |   |  |       |         |
| <b>Respiratory Illness in Children</b>   | H. E. Williams<br>P. D. Phelan  | Philadelphia<br>J. B. Lippincott<br>1975                          |  | 448   | \$44.00 |
| <i>A practical compendium of pathophysiology and management, specifically addressed to pediatricians in training and pediatric anesthesiologists, among others.</i>  |   |   |  |       |         |
| <b>Review of Physiological Chemistry</b><br>Fifteenth edition  | H. A. Harper  | Los Altos<br>Lange Medical<br>Publications<br>1975                |  | 570   | \$10.00 |
| <i>An introductory compendium to those aspects of physiological chemistry that are fundamental to the study of biology and medicine.</i>   |   |   |  |       |         |

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|---|---|--|-----|---------|
| <b>Anesthesiology and the University</b>  | N. M. Greene  | Philadelphia<br>J. B. Lippincott<br>1975   | 174 | \$10.00 |
| <i>A peripartetic look at problems and fruits in the groves of Academe.</i>   |   |  |     |         |
| <b>Electroanesthesia Biomedical and Biophysical Studies</b>   | A. Sances, Jr.<br>S. J. Larson                          | New York<br>Academic Press<br>1975         | 367 | \$36.00 |
| <i>Important collection of animal and clinical studies from The Medical College of Wisconsin, USSR, Japan, and India.</i>   |   |  |     |         |
| <b>SESAP II Syllabus</b><br>Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Prog. #2   |   | American College of Surgeons<br>1975       | 503 | PNS     |
| <i>Current educational program allowing the surgeon to concentrate on reading and studying rather than on seeking the sources of information. Designed for use with the SESAP II assessment packet.</i> |   |  |     |         |
| <b>An Introduction to Electroanesthesia</b>   | Aimé Limoge<br>(Translated and edited by R. M. Johnson) | Baltimore<br>University Park Press<br>1975 | 121 | \$12.50 |
| <i>An expert state-of-the-art account of a tool that holds promise of meeting the needs for emergency as well as conventional anesthesia.</i>   |   |  |     |         |

The Editor-in-Chief and the Editors of ANESTHESIOLOGY wish to thank the following consultants and referees for making available their expert knowledge in reviews of manuscripts during the past six months:

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