

Book Reviews

Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment. By M. A. KRUPP AND M. J. CHATTON. Los Altos, Lange Medical Publications, 1975. Pages: 1044. Price: \$13.50.

This volume is one of 17 designed as a "concise medical library for practitioner and students." It is not a primary textbook of medicine, but a detailed outline of the physiology, clinical findings, diagnosis, prognosis and current therapy for disease entities. Each section or chapter is followed by a small up-to-date bibliography for further consultation.

For the resident or practicing anesthesiologist, most chapters are not germane. The chapters on Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders, Heart and Great Vessels, Blood Endocrine Disorders, and Poisons are filled with pertinent information that can be rapidly scanned and applied to patient care.

The chapter on Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders lucidly discusses the physiology of water, anion and cation balance and compares the normal and abnormal states. For example, hydrogen ion concentration and its control, integrating ventilation with kidney tubular excretion, are succinctly discussed in three pages.

The Heart and Great Vessels diversely covers the entire spectrum of heart disease from the common congenital maladies through acquired heart disease, then goes into the diagnosis and treatment of hypertensive cardiovascular disease, arrhythmias and myocardial infarction.

Each chapter is concise, easy to read, and offers an excellent bibliography for further study. In conclusion, *Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment* is a ready source of general information for any practitioner.

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Anesthesiology and the University. By N. M. GREENE. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott, 1975. Pages: 174. Price: \$10.00.

Dr. Nicholas Greene's book is a recitation of the factual development of anesthesiology, and especially its relationship to the university. It is also a rather warm and interesting statement of a personal point of view towards these events.

Dr. Greene divides his discussion into six chapters based on the chronological development of anesthesiology as a university discipline. I find no disagreement with his description of events and share the same bias as Dr. Greene to a large extent. However, having had the privilege and opportunity of witnessing a small segment of the essays that he entitles "The Growth of Medical Profes-

sionalism," "The Years of Maturation" and "The Present," one is tempted to identify in perhaps an excessive way with the points that Dr. Greene makes.

Essentially, he reviews the eclectic as well as the turbulent and somewhat non-medical, even ludicrous, beginnings of this specialty, and develops his review to the point where professional competence and ultimately intellectuality take their place in the development of anesthesiology.

The strong commentary of Dr. Greene on the relationship of anesthesiology to the university and in turn, the university's responsibility to anesthesiology is well worth the attention of people who have academic experience and inclinations. It is a strange combination, of interest alike to the layman, the clinical anesthesiologist and the academic anesthesiologist. One could argue considerably with Dr. Greene's projections into the future; but until the future comes, his opinion is certainly one worth listening to because of his vast experience and competence.

There are some trivial points to take issue with, and one should mention them only to indicate that this review is a serious analysis and not an endorsement, despite the vested interest in so doing of the reviewer. For example, on page 46, Dr. Greene gives the year of Dr. Roventine's death as 1950; the correct date is 1960. Since Dr. Greene was a graduate student of Dr. Henry K. Beecher, one can understand the panegyric for Dr. Beecher that appears on pages 47 and 48. There are many others who would share his view. There are many who would not.

All told, this is an excellent book of small size and large ideas. It is recommended for the professional anesthesiologist, the academic anesthesiologist, and also people interested in university activities.

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Pain Relief. By J. G. HANNINGTON-KIFF. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott, 1974. Pages: 178. Price: \$15.50

This little book is an excellent synthesis of the neurophysiologic basis of pain, the psychological and behavioral response to pain, and the principles of pain relief. As each of the available techniques for the provision of pain relief is reviewed, the mechanism by which that particular modality provides relief is pointed out, so that all forms of therapy are indicated as having a rational basis when utilized appropriately. In those forms of pain relief in which efficacy is unexplained, the author takes the liberty of providing a possible, yet