

Book Reviews

Aging: Volume 2. Genesis and Treatment of Psychologic Disorders in the Elderly. EDITED BY S. GERSHON AND A. RASKIN. New York, Raven Press, 1975. Pages: 413. Price: \$28.50.

This excellent collection of monographs on the behavioral disorders of aging covers a spectrum of topics ranging from experimental psychology and investigative neuropathology to the clinical pharmacology of agents used to treat the psychopathology of later life. The contributors are all authorities in their fields, and most have succeeded in presenting their topics in a manner both interesting and useful to the clinician as well as to the investigator in gerontology. Controversial areas such as the use of hyperbaric oxygen for dementia, the efficacy of the Romanian drug Gerovital-H3 in the treatment of "aging," and the relationships between aging and intelligence are reviewed clearly and comprehensively. Some widely held concepts of the role of cerebrovascular disease in the etiology of dementia are challenged, stimulating the reader to take a more sophisticated (and optimistic) approach to the group of disorders subsumed under "chronic organic brain syndromes."

Of special interest to the anesthesiologist are a discussion of interesting experimental findings suggesting that the ergot alkaloids may protect brain tissue from adverse effects of acute anoxia, and several informative chapters on the psychopharmacologic agents so commonly prescribed for the elderly.

Any clinician involved in the care of the elderly (and who, except for the pediatrician, is not?) will find much of interest and value in this well-conceived and well-written volume.

MURRAY A. RASKIN, M.D.
*Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195*

Essentials of Respiratory Disease. second edition. By R. B. COLE. Philadelphia and Toronto, J. B. Lippincott, 1975. Pages: 297. Price: \$16.00.

Today's anesthesiologist is not only responsible for the peri- and intraoperative management of respiratory problems, but may also supervise the intensive care of patients with respiratory failure. In addition, in many community hospitals it is the anesthesiologist who is consulted in the management of acute severe respiratory disease. How well equipped is the anesthesiologist to handle these problems? Do residency training programs provide the basic science and clinical experience to enable anesthesiologists to meet these responsibilities with competence? In general, the answer

is "no." Therefore, will this book contribute to the education of the anesthesiologist in training?

Dr. Cole's book is written for the senior medical student and the resident. The author's aims were to bring together techniques of bedside diagnosis, concepts of pulmonary physiology, and the clinical features of the commoner respiratory diseases. The book is organized along traditional lines, with sections on clinical methods, pulmonary physiology, and pulmonary disease.

The section on clinical methods includes chapters on symptoms and signs of pulmonary disease, cardiovascular aspects of pulmonary disease, and roentgenographic examination of the chest. In the best tradition of British medicine, the descriptions of the clinical features of respiratory disease are good.

The chapters in the section on pulmonary physiology are concepts of pulmonary physiology, pulmonary function tests, pulmonary circulation and disordered function in disease. Most of the chapter on concepts of pulmonary physiology is given to gas exchange, with only rudimentary descriptions of control of breathing, respiratory muscles, and mechanical properties of the respiratory system. Indeed, these descriptions are so rudimentary that they result in distortion of fact, e.g., stimulation of the respiratory center by increased arterial hydrogen ion concentration in metabolic acidosis. Is the author implying that the respiratory center is the receptor responsible for the increase in ventilation in metabolic acidosis? The effects of mechanical abnormalities of the respiratory system on the chemical regulation of ventilation and of the consequent impairment of the ventilatory compensation for ventilation/blood maldistribution are not discussed. Airway resistance is discussed in both the chapter on physiology and the chapter on pulmonary function tests, and in the latter there is also a section on airway closure, but there is no reference to why it is difficult to detect peripheral airways disease, and therefore these sections do not become complementary. The description of the methods of measuring ventilation/blood flow maldistribution would be enhanced by a few basic equations.

The scope of the section on pulmonary disease is admirable, and it contains much useful information. Although each chapter contains a section on functional investigation, I believe that the author's aim of bringing together concepts of physiology and pulmonary disease would be better served by a more adequate description of the functional abnormalities of each disease. The description of treatment, particularly drug treatment, is often inadequate. For example, in the chapter on asthma the author recommends that aminophylline be given at a rate not exceeding 2 ml/min to a total of 500 mg in 20 ml. Depending on the patient's body weight and physical status, this might be the correct loading dose. However, since aminophylline is such an important drug in the