

central and spinal pathways for pain, and their inhibition by chemical, electrical and thermal means.

The section, "Psychological Factors in Pain" contains several articles describing attempts to correlate personality characteristics of patients with chronic pain syndromes. These techniques vary from an index of clinical pain level as a percentage of maximum pain tolerance (Sternbach) to the SAD index (somatic, anxiety, depression) of Black and Chapman and the five-variable MMPI model of Jamison, Brechner, Brechner, and McCreary.

Chapman, in his chapter, "Measurement of Pain: Problems and Issues," discusses the pitfalls in attempting to measure clinical pain and makes a plea for more intensive investigation of those indices that measure behavioral events indicating pain, objective thresholds, and the subjective estimation of pain states.

The second section of the book includes papers about laboratory and clinical research on pain modulation. Considerable space is devoted to modulation and production of analgesia by central and peripheral stimulation. The central-stimulation papers include the classic work of Liebeskind on pain modulation by stimulation of the central grey matter and papers by others describing results of stimulation of other central and spinal centers.

The section on investigations of the pharmacologic management of clinical and experimental pain includes good articles by Pepeu, Herz and Laschka, Sternbach *et al.*, and Kosterlitz and Hughes on pain neurotransmitters and inhibitors. Two important articles on the use of psychotropic drugs in the management of chronic pain syndromes and post-herpetic neuralgia provide practical information in the rational application of clinical pharmacology.

The introductory article, "Local Anesthetics as Modulators of Neural Information," does not relate particularly to the articles that follow, on nerve blocks in pain management. The section on nerve blocks is a brief melange of unrelated subjects, ranging from the effects of local anesthetics on intrathecal second messengers to the use of nerve blocks as a "reward" in the contingency management of chronic pain states. Much of this section has been published elsewhere by others.

The section on psychological and psychiatric techniques is totally inadequate, with the only article of note that by Mersky, "Psychiatric Aspects of the Control of Pain."

The 106-page section on acupuncture attests to the continued interest in this experimental therapeutic modality. The section contains several good articles on neurophysiologic responses to this method of stimulation. Those articles on the clinical use of acupuncture, however, are not adequately critical and, in many instances, lack control data.

Small chapters on neurosurgical techniques deal primarily with the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia and neuroadenolysis. The chapter on headache and orofacial pain is too incomplete to be of value to the reader.

"Musculoskeletal Pain" presents old and previously published papers on myofascial syndromes and an inadequate section on low-back pain, a condition responsible for the majority of patient visits to pain clinics.

Mechanisms of ischemia are briefly discussed in the section, "Other Pain Syndromes." The role of the sympathetic system in reflex dystrophy is adequately covered, and a single article deals with the management of phantom pain.

Workshops on data banks, data retrieval, taxonomy of pain, narcotic-tranquilizer interaction, and a new analgesic, Nefopam-HCl (Acupan®) are summarized. The materials included provide only a brief summary of the discussions at each seminar and are devoid of references.

Each chapter is well referenced and referencing is consistent

throughout. The monograph is well edited, and the type face makes for easy reading.

In general, *Advances in Pain Research and Therapy* is an excellent reference text for physicians and scientists interested in pain mechanisms, pathways and treatment. *Advances in Neurology*, Volume 4, Raven Press, 1974, is also edited by Bonica and Albe-Fessard. Together, these books provide an essential resource on contemporary knowledge and research in pain.

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Pediatric Respiratory Intensive Care Handbook. BY R. M. LEVIN.
Flushing, New York, Medical Examination Publishing Co., Inc.,
1976. Pages: 327. Price: \$10.00 (paperback).

This book is intended as a concise, quick reference source for personnel working in a pediatric intensive care unit. The format is that of a handbook (*i.e.*, short-form, outline style). It is liberally illustrated with numerous photographs of equipment, figures, and diagrams taken from many sources. It is obvious that the equipment photographs are intended for the uninitiated, since many of the items are standard for the anesthesiologist or physician practicing critical care. Unfortunately, some of the photographs are so dark that identification of detail is impossible.

The author's use of the short-form is only moderately successful. The chapters on nonsurgical and surgical pulmonary-related entities seen in the ICU give well organized, concise descriptions of the presentation, pathology, and management of most problems. However, the chapters, "Anatomy and Physiology" and "Acute Respiratory Failure" are less successful. In attempting to be concise, qualifying words are too often eliminated, which leads to incomplete or confusing statements. This is compounded by editing failures, including misspelled words, inappropriate words, and, on occasion, deletion of whole phrases. Areas of controversy are inadequately identified. The profuse use of tables in these chapters tends to be counterproductive. Instead of making it easier to find information, they block the flow of the text and require one to jump from text to table and back to cover the subject.

Like any other handbook, this book is necessarily superficial. However, it is adequately referenced for more in-depth study. The organization makes finding most subjects relatively easy. The author uses a large number of abbreviations, which may be a nuisance to those unfamiliar with them (there is a glossary in the Appendix). The chapter listing commonly used drugs with dosages and comments will be quite helpful to those needing a quick reference.

While having its deficiencies, the book may prove very useful in giving a quick overview of a problem and initial direction to management. As such, students and residents in pediatric ICU's may find it a helpful reference.

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Current Surgical Diagnosis and Treatment. BY J. ENGELBERT DUNPHY AND LAWRENCE W. WAY. Los Altos, California, Lange Medical Publications, 1975. Pages: 1123. Price: \$15.00.

The new edition of *Current Surgical Diagnosis and Treatment* comes out two years after the first edition and represents an update of surgical thought, summarized predominantly by the surgical faculty

of the University of California School of Medicine at San Francisco. The book will find its best use as a textbook for medical students, paramedics, nursing instructors, and nonsurgical house staff who are rotating on surgery or whose patients turn out to have surgical diseases. In this vein, it forms a useful alternative to other standard texts, such as "Schwartz" or "Sabiston," in being somewhat shorter and considerably less expensive. Its emphasis, therefore, is on the pathophysiology of surgical disease rather than on anatomy or surgical techniques. A third of the book deals with surgical subspecialties, giving an overview of common problems in neurosurgery, otolaryngology, ophthalmology, urology, gynecology, orthopedics, plastic and hand surgery, and pediatric surgery. The first two hundred pages deal in basic surgical principles, with generally good and concise descriptions of pre- and postoperative care, as well as the usual chapters on wound healing and inflammation. Because of its brief discussions, it will not perform as a reference book for patient management of any specific problem, but it does have an updated, current reference list at the end of each chapter subsection. The principles espoused in the book are sound; it appropriately avoids controversial issues; and it does indeed adequately fulfill its primary function as a textbook giving a very basic overview of surgical disease.

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Between Life and Death. BY H. GRANT-WHYTE. Natal, South Africa, Shuter and Shooter (PTY) Ltd., 1976. Pages: 135. Price: \$10.00.

Because their work intersects so many disciplines, anesthesiologists probably have a wider circle of professional acquaintances and see a greater variety of human afflictions than most other physicians. Unfortunately, they are rather a reticent lot when it comes to writing about their experiences. Harry Grant-Whyte happily has no such inhibitions, and in these memoirs gives a zestful account of his days as a student in Cape Town and general practitioner in South West Africa, and the highlights of his experiences after settling down as an anesthetist in Durban. His story is replete with yarns, name droppings and disarming good humor.

But there is more than banter and biography in this book. As befits a past president of the Medical Association of South Africa, Dr. Grant-Whyte has strong opinions on many topics of burning interest in the contemporary practice of medicine. He voices them strongly, and, often, persuasively.

Though few of the fateful contrasts of South Africa come to the surface, at every page one senses the wisdom and humanity of the bon vivant behind the mask, and browsers fond of good stories, good company, and good ideas are sure to enjoy reading everything Harry Grant-Whyte has to say.—B.R.F.