

# Book Reviews

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**Cardiovascular Pharmacology.** EDITED BY M. J. ANTONACCIO. New York, Raven Press, 1977. Pages: 534. Price: \$22.50.

This book presents a selection of review articles by various authors on topics of cardiovascular pharmacology. It is intended to be comprehensive, and useful to students, researchers and physicians seeking to keep up with current developments. To summarize this enormous file in a modest-sized text of 534 pages represents an ambitious, if not overwhelming, task. The contributors made a gallant effort to maintain their objective of being comprehensive and concise.

The lead chapter deals with fundamental principles governing the regulation of circulatory function and provides a good overview of the chapters to follow. Chapter Two covers renal physiology and pharmacology in 33 pages, but with only nine pages on the pharmacology of diuretics and less than one page on the most widely used of these, furosemide. The next three chapters deal with renin-angiotensin, neuropharmacology, and prostaglandins, respectively. They are concise but reasonably complete, with discussions of experimental methods and current concepts that will be especially interesting to investigators.

The next four chapters summarize hypertension, antiarrhythmics, inotropic agents, and shock, and are enjoyable reading. The chapter on hypertension maintains a good balance between pathophysiology and clinical medicine, including a full discussion of antihypertensive agents. The chapter on antiarrhythmic agents presents a lucid discussion of cardiac dysrhythmias based upon electrophysiologic principles, and includes a comprehensive review of antiarrhythmic agents, although, in this reviewer's opinion, biochemical defects and disturbances of excitation-contraction coupling and of calcium metabolism have been significantly implicated in the failing heart and, therefore, deserve more attention in the review of cardiac failure. However, the summary of other positive inotropic agents, including sympathomimetic agents, xanthines, glucagon, and cardiac glycosides, is quite adequate. The sections on the cellular consequences and the myocardial depressant factor of shock would be informative to any reader, and the same may be said of concluding chapters on platelets and platelet aggregation inhibitors, and on coronary circulation, angina pectoris and antianginal agents.

Figures and tables are generally used to advantage in this highly condensed and comprehensive treatise. Although it fulfills its objective, a reader must have sufficient background information to digest properly the enormous amount of information condensed in a modest volume.

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**Mobile Intensive Care Units.** Volume 95. BY R. FREY, E. NAGEL AND P. SAFAR. New York, Springer-Verlag New York Inc., 1976. Pages: 271. Price: \$21.20.

The International Committee of Emergency and Disaster Medicine is a multidisciplinary, multi-national group of physicians, nurses, ambulance personnel, administrators responsible for

emergency medical care, manufacturers of goods and services of value in emergency medicine, and interested laymen, who meet in Mainz, Germany, in September of each year. The group is independent of political, national, racial, religious, and commercial influences. This book contains the proceedings of the Symposium on Mobile Intensive Care Units and Advanced Emergency Care Units in September 1973. The book is typical of the series on Anesthesiology and Resuscitation published by Springer-Verlag, in that it is bound by a green paper cover, decorated with a picture of the seedpod from the giant oriental poppy (the source of opium). The book contains 271 pages and is divided into eleven parts: Planning and Organization of the Emergency Medical Services System, Communications, Treatment at the Scene and during Transportation, Continuing Life Support in the Hospital, Data Acquisition and Evaluation, Training of Non-Physicians and Physicians, Emergency Cardiac Care System, Disaster Preparedness and Care, Research and Innovations, and Recommendations, both in English and in German. The 66 individual contributions of 89 authors are grouped into these 11 sections. The majority of the contributions are in English, with German summaries. The remainder are in German with English summaries. Most of the contributions represent a recitation of "How We Do It Back Home." However, some excellent ideas emerge from the pages of this book; for example, "The MAST-1 Garment in Hypovolemic Shock," by Nagel; "Cardiovascular and Other Effects of Transporting Ill Patients," by Woddell; "Care for and Transport of Newborn Babies in the Ambulance Practice," by Takacs; "Blind Defibrillation," by Grace *et al.*; and "Recommendations," which actually consists of a list of abbreviations and their meanings, definitions and guidelines derived from the presentations, and discussions that apparently occurred at the meeting.

The book is valuable in that it collects in a single source summaries of the best efforts in emergency medical care that are currently in progress in the developed and developing countries of the world. The book is recommended for physicians, nurses, ambulance personnel, and administrators interested in emergency medical care.

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**Microbiological Hazards of Infusion Therapy.** EDITED BY I. PHILLIPS, P. D. MEERS, AND P. F. D'ARCY. Littleton, Mass., Publishing Sciences Groups, Inc., 1976. Pages: 186. Price: \$19.50.

This symposium on the danger of contaminated intravenous solutions was triggered by several outbreaks of infection from contaminated intravenous solutions in both the United States and the British Isles.

The book describes containers and closures, growth properties of microorganisms in infusion solutions, the hazards due to additives, extrinsic and intrinsic contamination. Some of the material is repetitious, but all of it should be read by every anesthesia resident and intensivist. The high price of this small volume pre-