

tive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) in the management of aspiration syndromes, or that the aspiration of gastric juice at a pH of 2.5 or below will cause serious pneumonitis. There is surprisingly little contention between the contributing authors: all are equally dubious about the role of steroids or antibiotics (unless specifically indicated) in the management of pulmonary aspiration, whether the aspirated material be gastric juice or sea-water, soup or nuts. However, such a cogent argument is made for the routine administration of antacids to the obstetrical patient to prevent acid regurgitation that one wonders why the other contributors have neglected the topic when discussing the prevention of aspiration pneumonitis in the routine surgical patient. Every anesthesiologist must surely have noticed the obvious lack of gastric emptiness upon passing a nasogastric tube following the routine induction of anesthesia without special precautions taken against regurgitation. A short chapter devoted to aspiration in infants covers the topic with a good balance between practical suggestions and theoretical considerations.

The final chapters deal with current approaches to the drowning victim, and with practical methods to diagnose and manage the aspiration of foreign bodies. Included is a detailed account of performance of the Heimlich maneuver. Unfortunately, in the discussion of drowning no emphasis is placed upon the recently discovered importance of water temperature in influencing survival time. No mention is made of the complicating effect of hypersensitivity reactions to aspirated marine organisms. Notwithstanding, this book makes a noteworthy addition to the library of every clinician involved with patients at risk from aspiration.

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**Basic Surgery.** First edition. By J. A. McCREDIE. New York, Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1977. Pages: 660. Price: \$15.95.

This book was prepared as a textbook and supplement for the medical student, intern and surgical resident. It is presented in four units: basic considerations, total care of the surgical patient, principles of general surgery, and principles of specialty surgery. The first section stresses the basic medical sciences that apply in the practice of surgery. Chapters on fluid, electrolyte and acid-base balance, immune response, wound healing, and principles of the spread and treatment of cancer are well done and appear to be geared to the level of the medical students.

In the second section, on total care of the patient, there are good discussions of preoperative preparation of the patient, care of the critically injured, and postoperative care and complications. The material on anesthesia is very brief and does not stress sufficiently the danger of a toxic reaction to local anesthetics, nor does it give any indication of the safe dosage limits for any of the local anesthetic agents. The third section is devoted to the principles of general surgery and is divided into regional- and organ-oriented chapters, each of which deals systematically with the surgical anatomy, pathology, operative procedure and possible complications, with good diagrams and illustrations. The section on specialty surgery deals only with principles and with the more commonly seen surgical problems that could be handled by general surgeons.

Each chapter is followed by a short bibliography of recommended additional reading, which in some instances is fairly complete but in others is not updated sufficiently to be of much value. In general, the book's aim has been achieved even though obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology, and otolaryngology are totally omitted.

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