

Book Reviews

B. Raymond Fink, M.D., Editor

Les urgences en anesthésie et en réanimation. By C. CONSEILLER, J. M. DESMONTS, P. GLASER, P. VIARS, J. MONTAGNE, G.-G. NAHAS, J. C. SALAMAGNE, AND G. VOURC'H. Paris, Librairie Arnette, 1978. Pages: 596. Price: PNS.

This volume contains 39 papers on emergencies in pediatrics, thoracic surgery, neurosurgery, abdominal surgery, hypertension, and vascular pathology.

The authors are anesthesiological and surgical experts in their various fields, and the general quality of their writing is very high. An outstanding chapter is the one on Pulmonary Burns, by Bansillon, Marichy, Goudot, and Grozel.—B.R.F.

Médecine d'urgence. By CH. VIRENQUE. C. H. U. Toulouse-Rangueil (France), 1977. Pages: 235. Price: 25 French francs.

The field workers' pocket guide to the essentials of management of various emergencies, surgical and medical, is written in notebook style. Numerous illustrations more than make up for the economy of words, though not of ideas. The introductory outlines of the bioenergetics of life and death do not suffice to explain the basis of many of the procedures recommended. The book is in fact full of wise counsel, but often dispensed almost *ex cathedra* without adequate explanation of the rationale. It can be recommended as an aide-mémoire.—B.R.F.

Neurotoxicology. Volume 1. EDITED BY L. ROIZIN, N. SHIRAKI, AND N. GRCEVIC. New York, Raven Press, 1977. Pages: 658. Price: \$55.00.

This text is handsomely produced, which accounts for its remarkably high price. It is a multi-authored, multidisciplinary potpourri of topics dealing with aspects of neurotoxicity. It is obviously the product of some international conference which, strangely, is never identified anywhere in the text; the reader is not even told when the conference was held. Judging from the bibliographies following the various "chapters," one would guess that the conference was held in 1976. It is hoped that failure to identify the conference was not a deliberate oversight in an effort to mislead the casual observer into believing that this is a book with a central theme. It clearly is not. Like most such texts, there is an effort to group various papers under major headings. This is as close as anyone ever gets to any kind of organization. Superficially, two of the nine sections would appear to be important to practicing anesthesiologists. The first section, "Tranquilizers," contains little of interest for the anesthesiologist. The second section, "Narcotics and Anesthetics," contains only one article that has anything directly to do with anesthesia, this being the studies reported from the University of Wisconsin concerning the neurotoxic effects resulting from chronic exposure of rats to low concentrations of halothane. This material has already been published in *ANESTHESIOLOGY* in the form of a Medical Intelligence article. It is unfortunate that as presented in this text the authors tend to sensationalize the implications of their studies as they might apply to the operating room. In the opinion of this reviewer they grossly overstate the practical significance of their results. Since the two sections that were anticipated to be of interest to anesthesiologists turned out not to be, there is little point in commenting on the remaining seven sections. The only bright light for this reviewer was a six-page overview concerned with the blood-brain barrier

and certain pathologic aspects, written by Klatzo. The senior editor has written both an introductory and a concluding chapter in an apparent effort to tie the whole thing together. Because of the diverse nature of the topics and the variability in style, quality, and completeness that occurs from one article to the next, such an effort at unification was doomed to failure. This book should have been entitled "The Proceedings of ———." At least then the interested reader would know what to expect when he picks the book up.

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Reviews in Perinatal Medicine. Volume 2. EDITED BY E. M. SCARPELLI AND E. V. COSMI. New York, Raven Press, 1977. Pages: 406. Price: \$27.50.

There are few fields in medicine that have changed as rapidly during the last two decades as perinatal medicine. This explains the recent proliferation of publications covering the physiology and pathology of pregnancy, the fetus and the newborn.

Reviews in Perinatal Medicine includes a number of topics that are of specific interest to obstetricians, anesthesiologists, neonatologists, developmental biologists, and in general, anybody interested in perinatal medicine. The contributors are all experts in their fields, and because many come from different places in the world they give an international taste to the book.

Most of the topics discussed are of physiologic and clinical significance, and many are still subjects of controversy.

The chapters "Phospholipid Metabolism in Perinatal Lung" and "Nonshivering Heat Production in the Newborn" deal with these problems mainly from the biochemical and physiologic aspects and discuss only briefly the possible clinical implications. The other chapters include the following topics, all with significant clinical correlation: diabetes in pregnancy; diagnostic cardiotocography; preterm labor; paracervical blockade during labor; applications of radioimmunoassay in perinatal medicine; prostaglandin inhibitors in the perinatal period; bilirubin binding by plasma proteins; critical evaluation of methods and clinical implications; neonatal oxygen transport.

The text is clearly written and a large number of tables and figures contribute significantly to its clarity.

Bibliographies, given separately with individual chapters, are extensive and up-to-date. The book has a very good subject index.

In summary, this is an excellent text that will be valuable to anybody interested not only in the practical aspects, but also in the fundamentals of perinatal biology.

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Pulmonary Pathophysiology: The Essentials. By J. B. WEST. Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins, 1977. Pages: 227. Price: \$9.95.

This is the sequel and companion volume to Dr. West's earlier book *Respiratory Physiology—the Essentials*, and is a welcome addition to simple, easily understandable books intended primarily