

An unusual and enjoyable feature of this book is the editor's comments preceding each chapter, giving an insight into the author's experience on the subject. This series, designed to "show and tell" practical aspects of anesthesia, may well fill a gap that has been apparent for some time to clinical anesthesiologists.

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Critical Care: The Fortieth Hahnemann Symposium. EDITED BY W. W. OAKS, K. BHARADWAJ, AND D. A. MAJOR. New York, Grune and Stratton, 1978. Pages: 336. Price: \$29.75.

As stated in the preface, the purpose of this symposium is to "be helpful in updating our knowledge of the best methods of handling critically ill patients." It is true that there have been major advances in critical care medicine within the last few years. Unfortunately, this book ignores most of them. Ventilation of the critically ill patient has changed radically with the introduction of high levels of positive end-expiratory pressure and intermittent mandatory ventilation. There has been much controversy over crystalloid versus colloid fluid administration to patients in respiratory failure. The only chapter in this symposium on respiratory disease concerns itself with well-described tests of respiratory function and does not address these newer, more controversial topics. In the cardiovascular field, new vasodilators such as intravenously administered nitroglycerin, phenolamine and nitroprusside and new vasopressors such as dopamine and dobutamine are being used to support the critically ill patient. In the chapter on septic and cardiogenic shock, there is only passing mention of these therapeutic modalities without discussion of their effects on the various organ systems involved in the shock state. There is no chapter on the pathophysiology of acute renal failure, its prevention, or its management by dialysis; nor is information about the rapidly advancing field of parenteral hyperalimentation presented. Finally, there is no discussion of advanced monitoring with flow-guided pulmonary-artery catheters or the measurement of cardiac output by dye or thermodilution.

In short, I did not find this symposium useful.

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Intensive Care Radiology: Imaging of the Critically Ill. EDITED BY L. R. GOODMAN AND C. E. PUTNAM. St. Louis, C. V. Mosby, 1978. Pages: 363. Price: \$34.50.

The goal of this book is to teach the radiologist enough critical care medicine and the intensivist enough critical care radiology to allow communication for effective use of the expanding number of radiologic techniques to aid in diagnosis and therapy of the critically ill patient. It is an admirable goal and in large measure successfully achieved.

Looking at the book from an intensivist's point of view, there are some minor deficiencies. The critical care medicine is occasionally oversimplified and controversial topics are presented without a full discussion. For example, the chapter "Life Support Techniques" presents a descending limb of the Frank-Starling curve as a simple consequence of excessive preload without a discussion of myocardial ischemia or mitral regurgitation as the cause. Acute respiratory failure in the adult is presented as a specific syndrome with a typical clinical and radio-

logic course contrary to the experience of many intensivists. The book also assumes some knowledge about radiologic techniques that the intensivist may not have. I would have found useful an early chapter reviewing radiologic terminology, positions and techniques of performing some of the more specialized procedures. This is left to the individual chapters, with spotty coverage resulting. The radiographs could occasionally benefit from an extra arrow highlighting the pathologic or normal anatomy for those not used to reading x-rays daily. I feel an important omission is the lack of discussion of the radiation hazards to patients or ICU personnel from the routine films or the newer radioisotope techniques.

Aside from these concerns, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. There is a large amount of well-organized and well-written information for either the intensivist or radiologist. The book is worth the price alone for the excellent collection of radiographs illustrating the myriad problems the ICU patient can encounter. It has increased my awareness of the newer radiologic techniques and my ability to discuss them with my radiologist colleagues. I recommend it strongly for anyone interested in the care of the critically ill patient.

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Recent Advances in Anaesthesia and Analgesia. EDITED BY C. LANGTON HEWER AND R. S. ATKINSON. Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1976. Pages: 268. Price: \$29.50.

This book consists of ten chapters contributed by ten British authors, originally written in 1975, and presented in the current series, *International Anesthesiology Clinics*, Spring 1978. Because of this lag, the book lacks the recent advances of the last three years. In general, the book reflects current British practice and therefore, it is more suitable for British than American anesthesiologists. The chapter on new drugs emphasizes drugs commonly used in British practice, such as althesin. Althesin is not available in the United States. The discussion of sodium nitroprusside is inadequate and superficial. The chapter on pain relief lacks diagrams and illustrations. The chapter, "Safety of Anaesthetic Apparatus," is excellent and would be helpful to all anesthesiologists. The writing is clear and concise and there is an abundance of references.

All in all, the book provides the reader with a comprehensive review of the recent advances in anesthesia until 1975. We do recommend that it be read by those preparing for the F.F.A.R.C.S. or the American Board of Anesthesiology examinations.

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Spinal Deformities and Neurological Dysfunction. EDITED BY S. N. CHOU AND E. L. SELJESKOG. (Seminars in Neurological Surgery Series.) New York, Raven Press, 1978, Pages: 276. Price: \$27.00.