

Competent anesthesiologists must know these changes, and nowhere else are they described in such a concise, easily reviewed format. Clinical anesthesiologists will also appreciate the brief descriptions of various unusual positions that are infrequently required.

The book has multiple authorship, which leads to considerable repetition. Dr. Martin proudly points out in his preface that since the various authors are from different disciplines, the repeated material has different viewpoints. I did not find this to be the case. For example, I found that reading two descriptions of the sitting position for neurosurgery complete with 21 duplicated illustrations of head rests and skull pins was a bit taxing. I think some editorial reduction on Dr. Martin's part would have improved the readability of the finished product.

The book is appropriate reading for anesthesiologists, surgeons, nurse anesthetists, operating room nurses, operating room technicians, and physician assistants in anesthesia and surgery.

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Basic and Clinical Immunology. EDITED BY H. H. FUDENBERG, D. P. STITES, J. L. CALDWELL, AND J. V. WELLS., Los Altos, Cal., Lange Medical Publications, 1978. Pages: 758. Price: \$14.50.

The second edition of *Basic and Clinical Immunology*, two years after the first edition, is a laudable effort to keep up with recent developments. The text, intended for medical students and physicians in the early part of their training, is invaluable to individuals interested in not only the clinical but also the fundamental aspects of immunology. The contributors, coming from different parts of the world, give an international flavor to the book.

In general, the chapters are clearly written, and sufficient tables and figures contribute significantly to clarity. References are not extensive but are adequate, and are presented at the end of each chapter. The references are presented under subheadings for the clinical chapters; few of the bibliographies have been updated. The original organization of the book into four main sections, *i.e.*, basic immunology, immunobiology, immunologic laboratory tests, and clinical immunology, has been kept. The contents of most chapters have not been altered; in a few chapters, the changes were minimal. The four new chapters in the second edition include information about: 1) the foundation of immunology; 2) the most recent concepts regarding delayed hypersensitivity and macrophage functions; 3) the relevance of the major histocompatibility complex to transplantation immunology; 4) the new field of dental immunology. These are noteworthy additions, which complete the original edition. The current volume has 44 chapters, with multiple authors, and does lack the smooth flow and uniformity of style that characterizes a single-authored book. However, it is to the credit of the editors that they succeed in imposing clarity and continuity on such a complex and difficult subject, to the extent found here.

Minor criticisms notwithstanding, the book can be recommended enthusiastically as a convenient source of readily accessible information.

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Practical Anesthetic Pharmacology. BY RAFIK ATTIA AND ALAN GROGONO. New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1978. Pages: 293. Price: \$21.50.

Some medical textbooks attempt a complete exposition of a subject—incorporating basic as well as clinical information of value to the practitioner. A few others have no pretence at completeness provide little more than tables or graphs as a reference for hard-to-remember facts and figures. *Practical Anesthetic Pharmacology* attempts a compromise—to provide only material relevant to the practice of anesthesia. Though at first glance writing such a textbook might seem an easy task, all too often what results is a superficiality that misleads the reader into avoiding a more comprehensive explanation of mechanisms and theories. Unfortunately, a large part of *Practical Anesthetic Pharmacology* falls into this trap.

The book consists of 16 chapters, each comprising an area of pharmacology related to anesthesia. Eleven of them are written by Doctors Attia and Grogono, while five are contributions from experts in the areas of muscle relaxants, local anesthetics, cardiovascular drugs, arrhythmia management, and antibiotics. The editors' chapters apparently represent an expansion of notes originally produced in response to requests from students and trainees, and use the format of a brief review of the subject followed by tables of facts. I found these chapters to be of uneven quality and completeness, and think that the abbreviated presentation of complex material makes learning more rather than less difficult. An example is the chapter on inhalational anesthetics. In ten pages of text, pharmacokinetics, anesthetic systems, theories of anesthetic action, and physics of gas cylinders are discussed—all without the aid of figures or diagrams. As a consequence, the result is unclear to any who are not sophisticated in these subjects. In the remainder of the chapter the pharmacologic properties of inhaled agents are presented in tabular form, but the information is incomplete, and occasionally in error. For example, the MAC values for halothane, enflurane, and chloroform, but not for methoxyflurane, nitrous oxide, or cyclopropane, are provided. Halothane and trichloroethylene are said to depress uterine contractility, while the uterine effects of other agents are not mentioned. Halothane is called a respiratory depressant while enflurane is not. The flammability of fluroxene is not mentioned, although flammability is commented on when appropriate for all other agents. Halothane is said to increase cerebral blood flow, while this effect is not attributed to any other agent. Phosgene, not dichloroethylene, is identified as the neurotoxic result of the trichloroethylene-soda lime reaction. The section on gas cylinders is complete in terms of describing how the cylinders are made and tested, while the most practical information—the volumes of gas present in cylinders of various sizes—is not included.

In contrast to the chapter on inhalational agents, the chapters on neuromuscular blockade, by Ali and Savarese, and local anesthetics, by Covino, are concise yet complete, with helpful figures that explain both why the agents work and how to use them clinically. Similarly, though somewhat overlapping, Fahmy's and Philbin's respective contributions on cardiovascular drugs and the management of arrhythmias provide information easily used by clinicians.

Technically, the book has some distracting faults. For example, drugs are referred to at times by their generic names and at other times by their trade names. The bibliography sometimes cites only the first author (without *et al.*), while at other times it includes the coauthors. And I fail to understand why a chapter about vitamins is included in a book entitled *Practical Anesthetic Pharmacology*, while vasopressors are completely omitted.

In summary, although I would not recommend purchase of this book for a personal library, department or hospital libraries might find a copy useful as a source of information.

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