

# Book Reviews

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## Care of the Trauma Patient. Second edition.

By G. TOM SHIRES.  
New York, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1979. Pages 672.  
Price \$31.50.

The first edition of this book was based on the experience at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, and stemmed from the faculty of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. In this second edition, other distinguished authors have been added to the list of contributors. The first section, on general principles, consists of chapters on shock, deficiencies in the blood-clotting mechanism, metabolic response to injury, cardiac arrest and resuscitation, anesthesia, and the prevention and management of infection. All of this material is excellent, and makes up the most valuable portion of the book. A single chapter on initial diagnosis and treatment makes up the second section. The third section deals with the diagnosis and treatment of specific injuries. Here there are some problems of emphasis. Among excellent discussions of burns, head injuries, chest injuries, and belly injuries is an incongruous chapter on malevolent inflictions, bites, and stings, which seems out of place. While the chapter on the principles of fracture management is excellent, the succeeding chapter, on specific fractures and dislocations, is so short it is of little value. The last section deals with events in the immediate post-trauma period, such as renal shutdown, respiratory complications, thromboembolic disease, and stress ulcers. Chapters on nasogastric suction, catheter care, and patient monitoring could have been combined with some of the other chapters and seem odd standing alone.

Taken as a whole, the book is first class. It is addressed to surgeons (particularly house staff) who are responsible for the initial care of injured patients. It is a valuable introduction to a complex subject.

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## Outpatient Surgery.

By RICHARD CARLTON SCHULTZ,  
Philadelphia, Lea and Febiger, 1979. Pages 470. Price \$48.00.

The current trend of burgeoning outpatient surgery can be attributed to obvious economic pressures, development of ambulatory surgical facilities, and improvements in anesthesia and surgical techniques. In *Outpatient Surgery*, emphasis is placed upon operative procedures, although logistics and organization do not go unconsidered. The editor has assembled a group of prominent clinical surgeons to discuss various operations by major specialty interest. Perhaps reflecting the editor's own experience, sections dealing with plastic and reconstructive surgery, otorhinolaryngology, and hand surgery are most detailed. Less emphasis is given to general surgery, although this may be justified by the relative infrequency of outpatient operations by general surgeons.

The text is virtually an atlas of operative procedures. By design, it does not explain principles or pathophysiology in great depth. As a result, the volume is delightfully small and handy. By comparison, other recently published textbooks in this field are too bulky to be portable. Despite its smaller size, *Outpatient Surgery* lists both

extensive references and selected readings at the end of each chapter. A combination of drawings and photographs illustrates procedures adequately. Of particular value is the concern of each author for problems of patient preparation under outpatient circumstances.

*Outpatient Surgery* is a concise, useful textbook for the outpatient surgeon, especially the plastic and ENT surgeon.

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**Neurochemical Mechanisms of Opiates and Endorphins.** EDITED BY HORACE H. LOH and DAVID H. ROSS. *Advances in Biochemical Psychopharmacology*, Volume 20. New York, Raven Press, 1979. Pages: 563. Price: \$39.00.

Few books fulfill the promotional advertising contained on the book jacket. This one does. It is advertised as being "a comprehensive review of the current state of our understanding of the neurochemical mechanisms for opiate and endorphin actions," and it is just that.

Most of the recent books on the subjects of opiates and endorphins have been based on conference proceedings and suffer from many of the deficiencies inherent to this kind of publication, e.g., uneven coverage of subject matter, unnecessary repetition, etc. This book is not based on proceedings of a conference and benefits considerably from that fact.

The book is divided into six sections. Each section is divided into chapters written by noted contributors. The first section is an overview of 40 years of narcotic research, followed by sections on opiate-endorphin-receptor interactions, the chemistry and neurobiology of endogenous opiate peptides, the role of messenger systems in opiate actions, the effects of opiates on neurotransmitter function, and finally, macromolecules, membrane function, and opiate mechanisms.

The editors state in the preface that the purpose of the book is twofold; first, to assemble in one source the available information in this rapidly growing area of research, and second, to focus on the major recent advances in this area. They succeed admirably on both counts.

This is an important reference work, which deserves to be in the libraries of academic anesthesiology and pharmacology departments. It will be of limited interest to clinicians. This notwithstanding, it is currently the best available book on the subject.

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**Management of the Patient-Ventilator System. A Team Approach.** By K. V. MARTZ, J. JOINER, AND R. M. SHEPHERD. St. Louis, The C. V. Mosby, 1979. Pages: 254. Price: \$9.95.

*Management of the Patient-Ventilator System* is an attempt to condense the principles and practical application of ventilatory care in the routine management of the patient whose trachea