

recommend it for all clinicians, including residents, who utilize neuromuscular blocking drugs and their antagonists.

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**Anesthesia and Uncommon Diseases.** By JORDON KATZ, JONATHAN BENUMOF, AND LESLIE B. KADIS. WB Saunders, 1981. Pages: 807. Price: \$49.00.

This second edition of a popular text has been expanded considerably from the first edition. A new editor, Dr. Jonathan Benumof, has been added. *Anesthesia and Uncommon Diseases* brings together in a most useful format a review of medical diseases and alterations which must be considered in the anesthetic management of surgical patients. The anesthetic considerations while often integrated into the body of the text, are often almost in the nature of appendices. This, of course, represents the multi-authorship if not the subjects treated. The descriptive prescription for management is straightforward, concise, and to the point; the authority sought perhaps more in evidence than in the first edition, a goal of the editors.

The order of chapters has been modestly changed and interlarded with three new chapters. The bulk of the chapters are not only significantly changed in authorship, both major and minor, but they have been for the most part extensively rewritten. The bibliographies, an outstanding characteristic of the first edition, have in all instances been expanded appropriately. In the intervening nine years since the first edition was published, there has not been a great change in anesthetic management and the drugs used, except for the introduction of enflurane, isoflurane and pancuronium.

The new chapters: "The Pregnant Patient and Disorders of Pregnancy," "Anesthesia in the Geriatric Patient," and "Uncommon Problems in Acute Trauma," hardly fit the cognomen of Uncommon Disorders. While in and of themselves they are excellent small pieces, they do not in any way deal with the uncommon in today's practice, nor are the anesthetic considerations especially revealing, but follow the accepted precepts of management. On the other hand, the chapters, "Genetic and Metabolic Disease," "Hematologic Diseases," "Gastrointestinal Disorders," "Neurological Disorders," "Connective Tissue Diseases," and "Skin and Bone Disorders," do bring together uncommon features of disease for which the anesthesiologist would like

a ready reference; not that this information is available in greater detail elsewhere.

This reviewer finds the catchy title somewhat misleading; however, like its predecessor, the second edition continues to fulfill a useful function as a ready reference for the panorama of diseases that may afflict patients coming to operation combined with a brief, succinct guide to anesthetic management. This volume achieves its purpose as a ready handbook and will serve residents-in-training and practitioner effectively.

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**Pain, Origin and Treatment.** By BENJAMIN H. GORSKY, M.D. Garden City, Medical Examination Publishing Co., Inc., 1981. Pages: 123. Price: \$9.50 (paperback).

This book is a concise overview which may serve as an introduction for physicians and students embarking on chronic pain management. It relies heavily on clinical anecdotes which may also be of interest to the experienced dolorologist. The author's experience and personal approach is well-transmitted in a straight-forward, uninhibiting manner. The book also contains a useful bibliography and quiz for CME credit.

Chronic pain syndromes are complex, multidimensional, and often vague. The author describes this philosophically in a chapter, "The Nature of Pain," and in quotes from classics: "When two pains occur together, but not in the same place, the more violent obscures the other," Hippocrates (Aphorisms II.46). The chapter, "Manipulations of the Nervous System," focuses on destructive procedures and neurolytic blocks. While these may be helpful in malignancies, a more extensive review of benign interventions and stimulus provoked analgesia would have been appreciated. The chapters, "Opiates and Other Drugs" and "The Future" are somewhat limited. Chapters on "Psychological Aspects of Pain," "Hypnosis," and "Some Specific Syndromes" are relevant and informative.

Chronic pain management is often a pragmatic art as much as medical science. That fact, and the author's particular approach, are efficiently conveyed in this book.

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