

BOOK REVIEWS

Burnell R. Brown, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., Editor

Narcotic Analgesics in Anesthesiology. Edited by LUKE M. KITAHATA, M.D., Ph.D., and J. G. COLLINS, Ph.D. Baltimore/London, Williams and Wilkins, 1982. Pages: 259. Price: \$34.00.

The textbook, *Narcotic Analgesics in Anesthesiology*, is an easy-to-read, informative, well-referenced book which considers such various topics as pharmacokinetics of narcotic analgesics, the endogenous opiate systems and opiate receptors, narcotic effects on the nervous system, obstetric and neonatal implications of narcotic usage, narcotics and all of the major organ systems, narcotics for pre- and postoperative medication, anesthetic care of the addicted patient, the use of opioid analgesics in the treatment of chronic pain, and psychophysical studies of the effects of opioid analgesics on experimentally induced pain.

The book fills a gap which has been present in the modern anesthesiologists' library for a number of years, and that gap is an up-to-date treatise on the use of narcotic analgesics in the operative and perioperative periods. The book consists of 13 chapters, with contributors primarily from the Departments of Anesthesiology, Neurosurgery, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Medicine of the Yale University School of Medicine. The book's primary orientation is towards the clinician. It is also an excellent reference for investigators involved in narcotic research and, of course, anesthesiology residents, medical students, and anyone interested in the current usage of narcotic analgesics in a clinical setting.

Some of its chapters are really magnificent, both in their sophistication and breadth. An example of this is the first chapter which deals with the pharmacokinetics of narcotic compounds, and is presented in a fashion, such that the clinician immediately understands the importance of this subject in modern anesthesiology.

The chapters are presented in a reasonably logical sequence, and with the exception of a certain amount of duplication and variety of quality in the various chapters, a problem of all multi-authored textbooks, it is of unusually high quality from cover to cover. Though the opinions of the various authors sometimes conflict, not only with the reviewer but with themselves, in general, the material presented can be considered to be the State of the Art of narcotics in anesthesiology in 1982.

THEODORE H. STANLEY, M.D.
Professor of Anesthesiology
Department of Anesthesiology
University of Utah School of Medicine
Salt Lake City, Utah 84132

Atlas of Paediatric Endoscopy. By BRUCE BENJAMIN. New York, Oxford University Press, 1981. Pages: 133. Price: \$45.00.

This book represents a uniquely illustrated and diagrammed collection of airway problems for the pediatric endoscopist, otolaryngologist, and anesthesiologist. Dr. Benjamin utilizes his vast experience in this area to present an orderly and pertinent review of normal and abnormal situations which the endoscopist may encounter.

An outstanding technique of photographic documentation has been utilized to transmit accurately the clinical situations found in this difficult area of endoscopic practice. There is no book available with this type of documentation. It is an invaluable contribution to the literature of the pediatric endoscopy.

STANLEY W. COULTHARD, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor, Surgery
Chief, Section of Otolaryngology
Arizona Health Sciences Center
Tucson, Arizona 85724

Recovery Room Care. By J. S. ISRAEL and T. J. DEKORNFELD. Springfield, Charles C Thomas, 1982. Pages: 334. Price: \$37.50.

Recovery Room Care is a collection of chapters written by various contributing health-care personnel. The material presented in this book pertains to some of the more common and not so common problems faced by medical, nursing, and administrative personnel, in the development and smooth running of a recovery room.

Several of the early chapters provide important information concerning the groundwork involved in setting up a good recovery room. Several examples of floor plans and convenient and expedient arrangement of equipment are included. Also, there is a discussion of ventilators, monitors, beds, and other equipment, with an eye directed toward those features most suitable for the recovery room situation. Several comprehensive lists are provided, indicating the basic drugs and monitors which are needed to meet the JCAH requirements.

In addition, several chapters are devoted to the hierarchy of personnel who work in the recovery room. Special note is made of the dual management between administration and the anesthesia department. Nursing qualifications and training programs are described, along with several systems for evaluating patients on admission and discharge from the recovery room.

Following these introductory chapters on developing and staffing, there are four chapters dealing with the recognition and management of postoperative problems most commonly seen in the recovery room. Special sections are devoted to arrhythmias, temperature regulation, airway and ventilatory problems, postoperative pain and anxiety, hypoxia, fluid balance, hypotension, and drug reactions.

Although in most larger hospitals the postoperative management of neurosurgical and cardiothoracic patients is carried out in special intensive care units separate from the recovery room, there is still the necessity in some institutions to recover these patients in the recovery room. An entire chapter is concerned with the physiology and special monitoring required to detect early postoperative problems in both the cardiac and neurosurgical patient. In addition, there is material presented concerning the special differences with pediatric patients. Mention of differences in temperature control, fluid needs, vital signs, and respiratory physiology is emphasized.

Finally, special reference is made to liability and malpractice concerning the recovery room. Means of preventing litigation through carefully documented records, compliance with JCAH standards of care, good training of personnel, and competent interaction between nurses and doctors are discussed.

Much of the information presented in the book can be found in anesthesia and nursing texts, journals, and pamphlets circulated by the Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Hospitals. However, it is most convenient to find this information presented so concisely within one text.

KAREN THOMAS, M.D.
Resident, Department of Anesthesiology
Parkland Memorial Hospital
Dallas, Texas