

BOOK REVIEWS

Edward Lowenstein, M.D., Editor

Cardiovascular Anesthesia and Postop Care. BY SAIT TARHAN. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, 1983. Pages: 640. Price: 69.50.

The major strength of this text on cardiac anesthesia, emanating from the Mayo Clinic is its emphasis on the pathologic and pathophysiological derangements produced by the various types of heart disease. The pathophysiology of, and the surgical procedures performed for, each disease entity are summarized. These factors, along with the assessment of the individual patient, underlie the anesthetic management of any given case. This approach makes the book especially valuable to those who are neophytes in this subspecialty and whose training has been restricted to anesthesiology.

The book is generally well referenced and reasonably up to date. There is considerable variability in quality among chapters. Besides the usual material covered in a text on cardiac anesthesia, there are useful chapters on myocardial preservation, cerebral protection, intraaortic balloon counterpulsation, and hematology. The short section covering postoperative care is general and not specific to cardiac patients.

The best portions of the book and those that fill the greatest need are those on anesthesia for congenital heart surgery. The chapter on anesthesia for surgical repair of congenital heart defects in children is the best summary of this subject available to date. The sections in other chapters discussing specific aspects of pediatric cardiac anesthesia are also valuable.

The greatest weakness of the text is the parochial view of anesthetic management presented. Techniques of anesthetic management described are largely restricted to those used at the Mayo Clinic. Thus, in areas where there is limited experience at that institution, the described anesthetic management appears not to be based on the large clinical experience evident in other areas. For example, the considerable tendency for the hearts of neonates and infants to fibrillate with the slightest surgical manipulation is not mentioned. Likewise, the information that left heart bypass alone is being performed because the single atrial cannula then is draining pulmonary venous return when bypass is resumed after a Senning or Mustard repair of transposition of the great arteries under hypothermic arrest is not provided.

This book is useful for its excellent coverage of pediatric cardiac anesthesia alone. Its extensive coverage of the theoretical basis underlying the management of cardiovascular anesthesia is also worthwhile.

PAUL R. HICKEY, M.D.
*Assistant Professor of Anesthesia
Harvard Medical School
Department of Anesthesia
Childrens Hospital Medical Center
Boston, Massachusetts*

The Genesis of Contemporary American Anesthesiology. EDITED BY PERRY P. VOLPITTO AND LEROY D. VANDAM. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1982. Pages: 246. Price: 29.75.

This is a small multiauthored book that gracefully documents the development of anesthesiology in the United States as we know it today. It is primarily a collection of short biographies of those individuals who were most instrumental in leading anesthetic practice from an unattractive technical field, relegated to the least fortunate and skillful, to a scientifically based, multifaceted, well-respected medical speciality.

Formatted in three major sections, the first two include brief biographies of the "Visionaries" and "Activators"; the last section, the "Matrix," traces the beginnings of the American Society of Anesthesiology, the American Board of Anesthesiology, and the journal ANESTHESIOLOGY. Personal knowledge of their subjects, in the roles of both colleague and teacher, enables the authors to present an enhanced history of the genesis of the speciality, possible only with such knowledge. I believe a copy should be in every department that has a residency program and every anesthesiologist should read it at least once.

EDWARD LOWENSTEIN, M.D.
*Professor of Anesthesia
Harvard Medical school
Boston, Massachusetts 02114*