BOOK REVIEWS

Edward Lowenstein, M.D., Editor

Intensive Care Radiology: Imaging of the Critically Ill, Second Edition. By LAWRENCE R. GOODMAN, M.D., CHARLES F. PUTMAN, M.D., WITH 18 CONTRIBUTORS. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1983. Pages: 336. Price: $47.50.

Drs. Goodman and Putman have produced an excellent second edition to *Intensive Care Radiology: Imaging of the Critically Ill*, a volume in the outstanding series of Saunders Monographs in Clinical Radiology. This text should become part of every training, intensive care, and anesthesia library. It should be considered essential for all physicians who care for critically ill patients. Including the editors, there are 18 contributors who have written 336 pages, divided into 13 chapters and one appendix. The text includes 18 tables and 256 figures, most of which are radiographs.

The authors have done a remarkable job in assembling multiple diverse topics into a text relevant to the eclectic practice of intensive care. The book is organized into chapters covering the techniques and apparatus of intensive care, pertinent diseases and physiologic conditions suffered by the patients, and the imaging techniques appropriate for the evaluation of each type of problem. The only possible criticism of the book is its attempt to cover a very large amount of material in such a short space. In successful defense of this strategy, the authors have assembled a great deal of very recent clinical and technologic information, written the chapters with input from individuals who are clinically expert, and supported the chapters with bibliographies that are recent and selectively broad. The most evident strength of the book is the clear and accurate description of relatively new imaging and therapeutic techniques such as CT and ultrasound-guided percutaneous biopsy and drainage, angiographic therapy for hemorrhage, retrieval of broken intravascular catheters, and others. Also, there is an appropriate and demonstrative amount of clinical material emphasizing the value of standard imaging techniques.

This book has been written primarily by radiologists with the goal of teaching imaging principles, diagnosis, and therapy. However, the authors are clearly expert in clinical care, and the relevance of the text to problems actually encountered in practice is apparent. This is not an abstract presentation of differential diagnosis or imagining technology. Rather, this is a well-aimed basic text with lessons for even the most experienced "intensivist." A useful aspect of this book is its success at bridging the information gap between clinical intensive care and clinical "imaging." One occasionally hears comments from the "intensivist" that the imaging interpretation lacks insight into the real clinical problem. The return volley might suggest the "clinical intensivist" sees in the images only those abnormalities that he suspects clinically and other issues are not recognized. The authors have succeeded in providing information that will be of help to both parties, thereby providing benefit to all, especially the patient. It is an effort worthy of recognition. Examples of the quality of the writing can be found in the final chapter and appendix. The last chapter appears for the benefit of the "clinician" and explains in a clear and concise manner the physics and practical technology involved in making and evaluating an x-ray image. This is easily understood by the "nonimager" and will provide the clinician with heretofore inaccessible insight into the reasons why the films appear as they do. The appendix appears for the radiologist or "imager" and is a brief but detailed recitation of resuscitation techniques with mention of more complete sources if the reader is interested.

I am happy to recommend this book to all physicians, nurses and technical staff who care for "critically ill patients," including those who perform, interpret, and deliver therapy based upon medical imaging. The book represents a welcome marriage of clinical, technologic, and imaging knowledge.

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Basic and Clinical Pharmacology. EDITED BY B. G. KATZUNG. Los Altos, California, Lange Medical Publications, 1982. Pages: 815. Price: $23.50.

This basic pharmacology text, in paperback, succeeds the seventh edition of *Review of Medical Pharmacology* by Meyers, Jawetz, and Goldfien. Updated and extended in authorship, this book certainly should continue to provide the student with a general pharmacology reference and serve as an initial source for the practitioner to learn about an unfamiliar drug or class of agents.

Most of the text's 60 authors are faculty members of the Departments of Pharmacology, Pharmacy, and Medicine of the University of California, San Francisco, with a few from other departments and institutions. The book's 66 chapters cover the entire spectrum of pharmacotherapy from drugs active on the autonomic, cardiovascular, and nervous systems, through to antibiotics, antihelminthics, and antineoplastics. The book's purpose, in Dr. Katzung's words, is to cover "examples of all the important and useful drugs." In doing so, it certainly compensates in breadth for what it lacks in depth.

The anesthesiologist, or even the beginning resident in the specialty, should not pick up this book expecting to learn more about anesthetic agents. The nine-page chapter on general anesthetics is written clearly for the nonspecialist. On the other hand, I would commend for resident education the excellent chapters on the antihypertensive agents, vasodilators, and antiarrhythmics, all authored by eminent pharmacologists and cardiologists. The strength of these sections lies in their clinical orientation. Medical and surgical therapeutic strategies also are placed in perspective for appropriate conditions. Although primarily medical in orientations, this is particularly valuable for cardiac disease. Finally, even the experienced practitioner of anesthesiology may have occasion to consult a work such as this for a quick review of antithyroid therapy or a brief insight into some of the newer antiviral agents.

When compared with the standard text in the field, Goodman and Gilman's *Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, this book initially seems to suffer in the comparison. At half the length, half the weight, and half the price, it contains less than half the information and only a small fraction of the documentation in references. But such a competition was clearly not intended by the editor and authors. The book's strength lies in clinical, rather than experimental, pharmacology. Its utility is as a textbook for students and as an initial source for a synopsis of information on any area of pharmacology.

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