

BOOK REVIEWS

Edward Lowenstein, M.D., Editor

A Practice of Anaesthesia. 5th Edition. EDITED BY H. C. CHURCHILL-DAVIDSON. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, 1984. Pages: 1261. Price: \$89.95.

Twenty-five years and five editions have passed since Wylie and Churchill-Davidson's textbook of anesthesia first appeared. The fifth edition is still in one volume, although the number of authors has increased from nine to 25. Nosworthy wrote in the foreword to the first edition, "I have no doubt that this work will bring to the established anaesthetist a ready source of reference to recent work on this rapidly expanding specialty and that the Herculean labours of the authors will materially ease the burden for those still in training."

Nosworthy was correct. The first edition fulfilled these aims. Does the fifth? "No and yes" is my answer. There are now more complete reference texts, and computer search facilities are even better, especially when combined with textual display. The fifth edition, unlike the first, is no longer worth purchasing as a reference text, at least for the anesthesiologist who has passed board examinations.

What about the yes? For the trainee the fifth edition is still a most worthwhile book. Dobb's 80-page chapter is a magnificent review of intensive care. Other excellent chapters are those by Seeley on artificial ventilation and Hunt and Semple on blood transfusion.

Should this be the first textbook read by a candidate for a non-British anesthesiology examination? Unlike 1960, the answer is "No." However, it should be read by trainees in anesthesia as an update of a remarkable text, which, when it first appeared, did so much to spread modern anesthetic practice around the world.

JOHN HEDLEY-WHYTE, M.D.

David S. Sheridan Professor of Anesthesia Respiratory Therapy
Harvard University
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Technical Manual of the American Association of Blood Banks. 9th Edition. EDITED BY FRANCES K. WIDMANN, M.D. Arlington, VA, American Association of Blood Banks, 1985. Pages: 515. Price: \$35.00.

The late Richard A. Theye observed that most anesthesiologists use more blood than halothane. Although blood was first stored overnight for transfusion in John Lundy's Department of Anesthesiology in 1935, only a handful of anesthesiologists in this country have had formal training in blood banking. Because of our involvement in the clinical aspects of transfusion, anesthesiologists must continue to keep up with advances in transfusion medicine. Current reference texts on transfusion medicine should be available to all in anesthesia education and practice.

In spite of its unpromising title, the ninth edition of the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) *Technical Manual* is a reference that would prove useful to anyone in clinical anesthesia. Well-illustrated sections cover areas of transfusion medicine vital to our practices: blood components; massive transfusion; immunologic principles; transfusion reactions; hepatitis; acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); and autologous infusion. The text avoids the overemphasis on immunohematology that frequently preoccupies the blood-banking literature. Areas of controversy, such as microaggregate filtration, are appropriately described. Topics of active research are updated to the *Technical Manual's* March 1985 publication date.

Although the *Technical Manual* was written by the AABB's "Committee on Technical Manuals," the anonymity of its editor and committee members is praiseworthy in this era of multiple authorship for every contribution to the medical literature. As with many modern texts, redundancy is occasionally observed, although it is rare. A table of proper blood-component terminology is printed in two separate chapters. A chapter on adverse effects summarizes viral hepatitis for three-fourths of a page, just before a 13-page chapter covers the same subject in depth.

Frances Widmann should be complimented for his work in editing this ninth edition of the AABB *Technical Manual*. His committee has created a reference text that is current, complete, and concise. Those who transfuse will find it useful.

RONALD J. FAUST, M.D.

Department of Anesthesiology
Mayo Medical School
Rochester, Minnesota 55905

Books Received October 1–December 31, 1985

Title & Edition	Author/Editor	Publisher		
		Address, Name, Year	Pages	Price
Decision Making in Critical Care	Hillary Don, M.D.	St. Louis C.V. Mosby 1985	205	\$44.00
Synopsis of Surgery	Richard D. Liechty	St. Louis C.V. Mosby 1985	745	\$33.95
Anesthesia—Essays on its History	J. Ruprecht M. J. van Lieburg J. A. Lee, W. Erdmann	New York Springer-Verlag 1985	410	\$49.00