

ter placed under techniques. I am not sure why the last chapter, Approach to a Febrile Patient, is included under Procedures, but it is thorough and addresses issues peculiar to intensive care unit patients.

Other criticisms of this text regard technical matters. The figure and photograph reproductions are of very poor quality, and in some cases defy interpretation. There are several typographical errors and misprints, such as instances in which the reader is referred to the wrong figure. Finally, the line length is too long for comfortable reading.

In summary, this book contains some excellent chapters that have information not available in most other texts intended for intensive care unit caregivers. Some chapters may be useful to medical students who are interested in reading more about the procedures they are seeing, and some to residents and new intensivists who are interested in reading a comparison of different techniques; however, I am not sure that either group will want to invest in the whole book. I hope that in future editions the editors will guide the authors as to the level, purpose, and goal for each chapter in advance so that there will be more consistency among chapters.

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**Choosing Your Practice.** BY ALAN K. KRONHAUS. New York, Springer-Verlag. Pages: 161. Price: \$19.95.

Practical, current, comprehensive advice for trainees in the process of finding the right practice opportunity is notoriously hard to come by. All too often, professors and friends have only a parochial fund of knowledge of this area and are not in the position to assist the physician in training during the process of finding a job. Happily, Kronhaus has managed to step into this void with an effective little book.

**Choosing Your Practice** is a Reader's Digest-style review of a long list of issues that the well-armed job hunter needs to consider. Finding job openings, evaluating personal and professional factors, evaluating hospitals and other facilities, estimating start-up costs, negotiating contracts, understanding malpractice insurance, and detailing group *versus* solo practice issues are some of the areas covered.

Chapter 7, How to Evaluate Specific Opportunities, is a key chapter. It discusses group size, specialty mix, legal structure, income sources, and income distribution. The information provided has wide applicability but unfortunately does not address many issues specific to anesthesia practices. These include control of the surgery schedule, control of the anesthesiologist's assignments to the surgical schedule, prevention of gaps in the surgery schedule, responses of the anesthesiologist's peers to case cancellations and other controversial interactions with surgeons, and whether or not preoperative visits are a shared or personal responsibility.

While the simplistic approach of this book may not appeal to some readers and may frustrate others who have very specific questions, topics are reasonably well presented at the introductory level. However, job-seekers with complex problems in a given area may need more detailed information. A bibliography would be useful, especially for individuals working with accountants, lawyers, or other professionals on highly specific problems.

It is unlikely that most anesthesiology residents are aware of the information presented in this book. Consequently, I suggest that this book be required reading for anyone seeking a new practice and for anyone advising those in the search.

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**Drugs and Anesthesia: Pharmacology for Anesthesiologists.** 2nd Ed. EDITED BY MARGARET WOOD, ALASTAIR J. J. WOOD; with nine contributors. Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins, 1990. Pages: 676. Price: \$75.00.

This is a welcome book in a field in which knowledge of clinical and basic pharmacology is vital to day-to-day practice. It is particularly appropriate that it should be co-authored and edited by an anesthesiologist and a clinical pharmacologist. The authors state in their preface that this book "is to fill a gap in the current anesthetic literature by providing a basic reference for the practicing anesthesiologist and also a textbook for the physician/anesthetist in training, studying for board certification."

This book is divided into four sections, the first of which deals with basic pharmacologic principles and includes separate chapters on drug distribution and pharmacokinetics, metabolism, receptor mechanisms and interactions, and adverse reactions. These early chapters cover the essential pharmacologic concepts for understanding drug action in a manner that is clear but that does not sacrifice required details. The chapter on receptor mechanisms is especially important in an era in which receptor and second messenger analysis of drug action is becoming commonplace.

Subsequent sections deal with anesthetic drugs, cardiovascular therapeutics and a final section covering general therapeutics to acquaint the anesthetist with medications the patient may be taking prior to surgery.

Some omissions from these later sections detract from the otherwise excellent presentations. No discussion of ganglionic blocking agents in general or trimethaphan in particular is made. Antibiotics and their potential for drug interactions and reactions are neglected, and a discussion of chemotherapeutic agents and their potential for altering patient physiology also is absent from this text.

The editors have chosen to group references at the end of the chapters under subject headings rather than place reference numbers within the text, in order "to facilitate readability and the reader's ease of understanding." I have found this a bit distressing in a reference book. Specific ideas and statements are made without any clear association to a particular reference, hampering further investigation.

This second edition keeps the reader up to date with recent advances in therapeutics. In this respect the editors have done a superb job not only in including material on new pharmacologic concepts but also in discussing new drugs that are yet to be released into general use. The current state of opiate receptor subtyping is well covered, as is that of multiple muscarinic cholinergic receptors.

In addition to their roles as editors, Wood and Wood have assumed single authorship for 17 of the 24 chapters and have kept a consistent style throughout the text. The graphs, tables, and illustrations are clear and well chosen. Is there a need for this textbook in an anesthesiologist's library? I think that this book does serve a need. It is more specific and clinically oriented than *The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics*, by Goodman and Gilman, and is more current though not as complete as *Pharmacology and Physiology in Anesthetic Practice*, by Stoelting. Despite the minor problems discussed above, this book is very readable, is current, and is a valuable resource for clinical anesthesiologists at all levels.

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