

with increased lung permeability and a brief review of Reye's syndrome. There also is an excellent chapter on electrolyte and acid-base problems.

Section 8 is entitled Therapeutics, and deals first with pain management and sedation in the ICU. The section then deals with poisoning, pharmacokinetics, and finally, opioids. The next section is on trauma and ranks with the pulmonary section as among the finest in the book. There is little redundancy, and each chapter provides a state-of-the-art type review of an individual area. After a great introduction to the topic, the next chapters deal with head injuries, burns, and hemostasis. There also is an excellent review of the acute abdomen.

Section 10 deals with transplantation and is quite straightforward. There is a preliminary chapter on kidney transplants, followed by liver, heart, and heart-lung transplantation. Bone marrow transplantation is covered again, but single lung transplants are not. Section 11 is entitled CNS, and begins with a well-written chapter on critical care neurology, followed by a chapter on monitoring. Material appearing in the chapter on intracranial pressure monitoring in the section on monitoring is repeated in this chapter in a section on intracranial pressure monitoring. There is a good chapter on cerebrovascular disease, followed by several on brain death and on withdrawing life support. There is an excellent review of psychiatric problems in the ICU, followed by a review of the problems that the ICU presents to families and ICU workers.

Section 12 is a very brief section on nursing. It may be useful only for a physician interested in knowing some aspects of critical care nursing. I doubt that it provides much new information for an ICU nurse or manager. Section 13 is entitled Organization, and begins with a discussion of the neonatal ICU and two chapters dealing with the concepts of severity-of-illness indices. The final two chapters of the book easily could have been the first two, since they deal with outcome prediction and economic considerations. These are extremely important chapters, which will have great importance in how we use critical care resources into the 21st century.

The index is useful and works well. References are very up-to-date and heavily emphasize literature of the past 20 years, for obvious reasons. Copy-editing and production of the text is good. There were surprisingly few annoying typographic errors. The binding held up well over several weeks of opening and closing.

The second edition of *Textbook of Critical Care* was an ambitious undertaking that has resulted in a comprehensive textbook of critical care medicine, but the book is not without its problems. It contains many state-of-the-art reviews of important topics in critical care that ordinarily cannot be found in a central source such as this. The redundancy of information is a problem for me as a reviewer since the same topic appears in different locations for different reasons. I believe that the book could be improved by some careful planning and vigorous editing of the chapters. I also found that the integration of pediatrics throughout the text is somewhat awkward, and that for the next edition consideration should be given to a section devoted to pediatrics and neonatology or a separate text. Despite my criticisms, no other textbook deals with the entire spectrum of critical care, and I expect we will continue to see future editions of this book.

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Basics of Anesthesia. 2nd Edition. BY R. K. STOELTING and R. D. MILLER. New York, Churchill Livingstone, 1989. Pages: 523. Price: \$32.95.

The first edition of *Basics of Anesthesia* appeared in 1984 and proved a worthy competitor to the venerable *Introduction to Anesthesia* by Dripps, Eckenhoff, and Vandam. Since then, the field has enlarged to the point where the authors have prepared a second and larger edition. In their preface, Stoelting and Miller state that "the book still remains, in our opinion, the most concise presentation of essential information for the practice of anesthesiology available to the trainee and the practitioner."

In reading over their book, I found a wealth of information, most of it concisely and articulately presented. Indeed, when compared to the ponderous three-volume reference text, *Basics of Anesthesia* deserves its nickname, "Miller Lite."

Basics of Anesthesia is organized into five main sections. The first, History and Scope of Anesthesia, is a concise and fact-filled summary of the history and scope of our specialty. In particular, there is a splendid table of historic milestones that the resident and experienced practitioner will appreciate and refer to again and again. The second section, Pharmacology, contains a wealth of information about the agents we use in practice. However, I felt that the discussion of uptake and distribution was confusing and would be difficult for a novice to follow. Also, rather than use appropriate subscripts, i.e., P_A and P_I consistently in their discussion, the authors used the terms PA and PI, which are nonstandard and confusing, especially since PA is the usual abbreviation for pulmonary artery. I suspect that this may be a typographic error. On the other hand, the presentations of pharmacokinetics, neuromuscular blockers, and the autonomic nervous system are superb. The authors include a marvelous schematic diagram of a transmembrane signaling system that is a model of clarity.

Section 3 addresses Preoperative Preparation and Intraoperative Management. The presentations, for the most part, are clear and concise. However, there are occasional areas in which the information is incomplete, and the resident will often want to go beyond this text for more definitive information. Toward this end, each chapter contains a well-organized reference list, containing both classical and current articles.

Section 4, Special Anesthetic Considerations, contains excellent presentations of specialty areas such as cardiac disease, pulmonary disease, obstetrics, and pediatrics. The section on renal disease is particularly good. However, the experienced anesthetist will again wish to go beyond these discussions for more definitive presentations.

Sections 5 and 6, which deal with the recovery room and consultant practice, are succinct and straightforward.

In summery, it is easy to see why this text is so popular among new anesthesia residents. It is relatively concise compared to the reference texts currently available, is reasonably easy to read, and is quite current. However, I do not find it to be a good reference for medical students unless they are doing a prolonged clerkship or preceptorship, since the book is simply too long and detailed for a week's rotation. Although this text lacks the eloquence of Dripps, Eckenhoff, and Vandam, it is well-organized, amply referenced, and packed with essential material. I highly recommend it for the new resident. The experienced practitioner, however, will probably be better served by such vehicles as ASA Refresher Course lectures and review articles in order to remain current.

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