

BOOK REVIEWS

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Critical Care. 2nd edition. Edited by Joseph M. Civetta, Robert W. Taylor, and Robert R. Kirby. Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott, 1992. Pages: 1,998. Price: \$165.00.

As the field of critical care medicine has grown, so has the number of books written on the subject. We are now in the enviable position of being able to select the most appropriate book, rather than simply being grateful for finding one. The subject of this review, *Critical Care*, is edited by three well established practitioners in the field and is a second edition. The editors' intent, stated in the preface, was to organize the book in a way that would be useful to someone starting a rotation or fellowship in an intensive care unit. The editors believe that a physician who is well grounded in the basics is best able to understand a subject and, subsequently, to build on that knowledge. Consequently, their objective was to provide basic knowledge on which a beginning practitioner could build experience as well as more advanced information upon which a reader might draw as his needs grow. The editors were unusually successful in achieving this ambitious objective.

The book, consisting of 151 chapters, 1,998 pages of very readable type, is divided into four parts. The first consists of general principles, describing the function of an intensive care unit (ICU), cardiopulmonary resuscitation (an excellent section), techniques and procedures, and monitoring. The second part addresses systematic problems and covers the basic physiology necessary for understanding specific disorders. Within this part is an entire section covering surgical patients and the problems inherent to them, such as postoperative respiratory dysfunction. The second part also includes sections on organ transplantation, the obstetric patient, environmental hazards, and infectious diseases. Part III addresses specific disorders of different organ systems. The coverage of mechanical ventilation, as well as of the neurocritical care patient, are particularly practical. The last part of the book covers selected topics that did not fall naturally into any of the other parts of the book.

The textbook, which contains advanced knowledge, is also useful to the newcomer to the ICU. Each chapter dealing with disease begins with a section on "immediate concerns," designed to assist the practitioner in identifying matters requiring immediate action, followed by full development of the issues in the remainder of the chapter or appendices. The format is ingenious and, except for the fact that the need to provide a plan of action results in a plan based on opinion rather than one derived through stated logic (which would enable some evaluation by the practitioner), the resulting "immediate concerns" sections generally are very successful.

A few minor criticisms of the book could be made. One might, for example, have appreciated a more schematic outline of the chapters prior to the detailed one at the beginning of the book: Given the multisystem involvement of many ICU patients, one often needs to refer to various sections to get an adequate perspective on a patient's situation. Also, despite an excellent section on ventilation, there is no mention of separation from mechanical ventilation or of tracheal extubation. One hopes that the authors will use the outstanding plan of chapters such as "Preservation of Cerebral Function during Car-

diopulmonary Resuscitation" as a model for the next edition. This chapter discusses current literature as it pertains to clinical practice in this area, allowing a newcomer to understand current practice and enthusiastically await future developments in the area.

Overall, this textbook is very readable and fills a void in the critical care field: the text enables a beginner, who may have long-term interest in this field, to overcome their initial apprehension, start practicing, and pursue further study at intermediate and advanced levels. I would recommend this text, as a first book, for fellows in critical care medicine and also, perhaps more importantly, as a reference textbook to be kept on location in the surgical intensive care unit for fellows.

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Handbook of Mechanical Ventilatory Support. Edited by Azriel Perel and M. Christine Stock. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1992. Pages: 308. Price: \$32.50.

I find the title of this publication somewhat inappropriate; generally, when a book is coined a "handbook," we expect it to contain basic, elementary material, needed and available for our daily clinical involvement. This "handbook" far exceeds such expectations. Its scope is wide, and its physiologic relevance to ventilatory and respiratory support, quite indepth. Yet, the book remains practical and immediately useful to the novice, as well as to the more professional provider of respiratory care.

The editors selected some of the more prominent experts to write the various (22) chapters of the book. Many of the contributors are the originators of the various techniques of respiratory care to which they relate in their corresponding chapters.

The first six chapters are of general interest and relate primarily to the physiologic and pathophysiologic considerations involved with exposure of the airways to positive pressure and its effect on the respiratory as well as other vital organ systems. The following chapters relate to the various techniques of respiratory assistance available for the many etiologies of respiratory failure, to the salutary endpoints that may be expected with such techniques, and to their possible specific complications. There is also an excellent chapter dealing with the all-too-familiar problem of difficulty in separation from respiratory assistance. This handbook is appealing and unique because it contains only material that is useful and immediately applicable to provide the best in respiratory care for respiratory failure. For example, the book does *not* contain detailed technical data on the

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various ventilators and their complex mechanical components, as most similar books do. In my experience, at least, these intricacies are best learned with experience, rather than from books.

This book has abundant illustrations that are of great help to the understanding of the physiologic mechanisms involved. It is an essential book for every practitioner of critical care medicine and should be available in institutional as well as critical care medicine departmental libraries.

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Cancer Pain. By Richard B. Patt. Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott, 1993. Pages: 650. Price: \$79.50.

While this text is not the first written on cancer pain, it is, without a doubt, the most comprehensive of all texts presently in print. Dr. Richard B. Patt, an expert in cancer pain management, has endeavored to produce the most complete text on the assessment and treatment of cancer pain and related problems. In doing this, he has assembled chapters from a wide variety of notable cancer specialists in many different medical fields. Often one has to purchase several texts to garner information so diffuse and varied as is contained in this volume. The timing of this text could not be more perfect since both the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) and the American Society of Clinical Oncologists (ASCO) have assigned high priority to formally teaching cancer pain management during fellowship training in their respective fields. Moreover, as the American Board of Anesthesiology will begin to offer the opportunity to obtain certification of added qualifications in pain management, this text will most likely be considered as the source for cancer pain information.

In the preface, Patt explains the evolution of cancer pain management, its principles, and its distinction from nonmalignant chronic pain. For the uninitiated, I recommend first reading the preface to gain a brief overview of the cancer pain process. The author also describes the rationale for organizing the text into the four sections of 30 chapters and the eight appendices (labeled A-H). This text was designed to serve as a comprehensive reference for practitioners engaged in the management of cancer pain and related symptoms. It is truly a text that crosses over many medical specialties and is not written exclusively for an anesthesiology-based practice. However, because of Patt's training in anesthesiology, the text is replete with eight chapters devoted to nerve blocks.

The table of contents is well organized and allows the reader to quickly locate any topic of interest. Section I, "Assessment," has five chapters devoted to the taxonomy of pain syndromes and the assessment of cancer pain. There are entire chapters devoted to cancer pain due to cancer therapy, assessing pain in children, and behavioral assessment and management.

Section II, "Pharmacologic Treatment," contains seven chapters dealing with the general principles of pharmacology, the use of non-steroidal analgesics, opioid analgesics, adjuvant drugs, alternate routes of opioid administration, associated opioid toxicities, and the implications of inadequate opioid therapy.

In Section III, "Non-Pharmacologic Treatment and Novel Approaches to Management," 13 chapters address the various invasive and neurodestructive techniques used when treating severe cancer pain or terminally ill patients. Of note there are also chapters dealing with the treatment of related symptoms such as asthenia or cachexia, diagnosing and treating psychiatric complications, palliative radiation, and palliative chemotherapy. The chapters addressing invasive therapy commence with a separate chapter on therapeutic decision-making and continues with topics such as intraspinal opioid therapy, local anesthetic blocks, four chapters devoted to neurolysis, complications of invasive procedures, and orthopedic management.

Section IV, "Special Problem Areas," has five chapters that discuss neurosurgical intervention, pain management problems in developing countries, pain management in childhood cancer, oncologic emergencies, and the hospice concept.

Finally, the eight appendices provide useful reference material on pain assessment tools, obtaining instruments to assess pediatric pain, pharmacotherapeutic guidelines, anatomic charts, needles/catheters/syringes, epidural catheter implantation procedures, drug preparation processes, and radiologic procedure potpourri.

Turning to the index, the reader will find 25 pages of fully indexed topics with specific indications for figures and tables. Topics, headings, drugs (both trade and generic names), and processes are liberally subreferenced.

The body of the text makes extensive use of titles, headings, sub-headings, pictures, figures, and tables. As a result, the information is readily obtainable by quickly scanning the chapters and also keeps the reader's interest by compartmentalizing concepts rather than presenting the information as a series of long paragraphs.

The content of many chapters varies with the topic. For example, the assessment chapters comprise 100 pages and cover every conceivable topic from the types of pain and their anatomic classifications to hypnosis and cognitive therapy (teaching the patient how to think of healthier images). Consequently, it is impossible to discuss each concept fully. Nonetheless, a good superficial treatment of most topics is supplemented with an exhaustive bibliography at the end of each chapter. In contrast, the section on pharmacologic treatment comprises only 93 pages, yet deals with some of the most fundamental concepts of cancer pain therapy. While the contents of these chapters include all of the key topics and are generally well written, sections dealing with opioid and adjuvant therapy could benefit from more indepth treatment with additional and expanded tables on the duration of action, types of drugs used, and suggested dosing. In my opinion, this section deals with the drugs that provide pain relief for up to 90% of all cancer patients. Therefore, a more extensive treatment of each drug and/or class in the text itself would enhance the usefulness of this section. It should be noted that the appendix does have a large section on the different classes of drugs and their trade names and doses. Chapters on nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs, inadequate outcome of opioid therapy, alternate routes, and toxicity are complete, well written, and adequately referenced.

The strongest areas of this text are the chapters dealing with invasive procedures and palliative radiotherapy. The four chapters dealing with neurolysis are excellent and complement each other well. It