

BOOK REVIEW

TOPICS IN ANAESTHESIA AND INTENSIVE CARE. J. ANDREW THORNTON AND CYRIL J. LEVY. London, Henry Kimpton Publishers, 1979. 152 Pages. Price: £4.60 (approx. \$15.00).

IN THE PREFACE to this small book, which has been written for the undergraduate student, the authors state that the material is largely practical and aimed at assisting the student to gain the most from the period of anaesthetic clerkship and encouraging him to consider further study of the subject after qualification, as well as being beneficial to his overall training as an undergraduate. The book is divided into seven chapters with an additional chapter containing relevant laboratory data: the chapters are set out systematically starting with the pre-operative assessment and preparation of the patient and continuing into the operative and post-operative management. Separate chapters are dedicated to water and electrolyte problems, blood volume loss and replacement, and acid-base disturbances. Finally, there are two chapters discussing the special problems of intensive care and chronic pain.

The need to stimulate the undergraduate in an understanding of the specific attraction and problems of anaesthesia is a very laudable undertaking; however, in your reviewers' opinion

this booklet falls very short on both counts. This is a book that discusses all topics very superficially and fails to be practical in the process. In the pre-operative assessment and preparation of the patient, there is no comment made about the drugs and dosages to be used in the management of the patient with a history or existent bronchospasm and no mention is ever made in the whole book of malignant hyperpyrexia, a condition of interest even to the layman.

In the management of water and electrolyte problems, the discussion of fluid replacement and the requirements of electrolytes are well presented but very little amplification is provided the diagnostic signs of electrolyte abnormalities. The emphasis of fluid management is on the use of the C.V.P. line and no mention is made in this chapter, or in the book, of the practical use of the Swan Ganz catheter. There is a good description of doing a cut down for fluid administration, but no description of introducing lines through the external jugular, internal jugular or subclavian veins is provided; in the chapter on intensive care no description of the methodology of establishing an arterial line is given.

This is a very readable book, which can be read in a couple of hours, but the amount of useful practical information purveyed is minimal.

W. DEMAJO

BOOKS RECEIVED

CORONARY HEART SURGERY: A Rehabilitation Measure. H. ROSKAM & M. SCHMUZIGER. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1979. \$42.90 (U.S.).

MUSCLE RELAXANTS. STANLEY A. FELDMAN. Toronto, W.B. Saunders Co. Can. Ltd., 2nd Ed., 1979. \$16.80.

APPLIED RESPIRATORY PHYSIOLOGY. J.F. NUNN. Woburn, Butterworth's 2nd Ed., 1979. \$39.95 (U.S.).

MECHANISMS OF PAIN AND ANALGESIC COMPOUNDS. RONALD F. BEERS, JR., AND EDWARD G. BASSETT. New York, Raven Press, 1979. \$39.50 (U.S.).

ANESTHESIOLOGY: A MANUAL OF CONCEPT AND MANAGEMENT. CHARLES W. QUIMBY, JR. New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 2nd Ed., 1979. \$12.50 (U.S.).

THE POCKET MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA AND FIRST AIDE GUIDE. JAMES BEVAN. Toronto, Musson Book Co., 1979. \$5.50.

SELECTIVE BRONCHOGRAPHY AND BRONCHIAL BRUSHING. F. PINET, M. AMIEL, A. RUBERT AND J.C. FROMENT. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1979. \$99.00 (U.S.).

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF BLOOD GAS ANALYSIS. A.P. ADAMS AND C.E.W. HAHN. London, Franklin Scientific Projects, 1979.

FREE YOURSELF FROM PAIN. D. E. BRESLER. Toronto, Musson Book Co., 1979. \$16.95.

ANATOMY OF AN ILLNESS. NORMAN COUSINS. Toronto, McLeod Publishing Co., 1979. \$12.95.