

## BOOK REVIEWS

**ADVANCES AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS IN NEUROSURGERY.** H. KRAYENBUHL, Managing Editor. Vol. I. Springer-Verlag, New York Wien.

THERE IS ONE CHAPTER in this volume which is of particular interest to specialists in anaesthesia. The remainder of the book will be of assistance to those doing neuro-anaesthesia as a source of general information only.

The first chapter, "Non-operative Management of Intracranial Hypertension," discusses once more, in some detail and with some logic and clarity, the problem of the "tight brain." This problem has been the exhausted topic at symposia varying in scope from the local hospital to world conferences. This fact is an indication of its importance in the "acute care" field, which cannot help but involve the specialist in anaesthesia at more than one point in the care of such a patient.

The specific chapter in this volume has all the information, it is well presented, and, further, it has appropriate comments. Whether or not the information is new to any particular reader will depend upon the meetings which have been attended. The chapter is indeed an excellent consolidated source for post-graduate students.

B.M.

**RELIEF OF INTRACTABLE PAIN.** Edited by MARK SWERDLOW. Volume 1, Monographs in Anaesthesiology, 246 pages, Excerpta Medica, Amsterdam, price \$25.40 U.S.

INTRACTABLE PAIN presents a great challenge to any physician in terms of diagnosis and treatment. The treatment must involve a team with expertise in this field, and this monograph provides an up-to-date comprehensive introductory account of the contributions that each sub-specialty can make in the management of this distressing symptom.

The various authors present the information in a well illustrated practical manner, and provide relevant references at the end of each chapter. Throughout the text, stress is placed on the team approach, complications, side effects and limitations of available treatment modalities.

Learning about pain management in the past has been based on reports of isolated expert observers, intuition and previous experience in similar circumstances. With the advent of pain clinics operating on an interdisciplinary basis, it is hoped that further orderly factual data will emerge. This book indicates obvious areas for further investigation; it is well edited, and is recommended as introductory reading to all postgraduate clinical physicians, particularly those involved in establishing pain clinics and sub-specialty training programs. The family physician may well regard this book as an "arm-chair" consultant, and it may help him in his referral decisions when an interdisciplinary team is not accessible. A companion volume on clinical assessment and investigation of intractable pain is now desirable.

### CORRECTION

On page 17, paragraph 2, the reference for metabolic alkalosis is incorrect. It should read, Evans, R.J., Acid-base Changes in Patients with Intractable Pain and Malignancy. Can. J. Sur. Vol. 15, pages 37-42, January 1972, rather than the reference given, which is correct in every respect, except that it is a concurrent paper dealing with phenol nerve blocks.

R.J.E.

**STOFFWECHSELWIRKUNGEN VON TROMETAMOL.** HELWIG, H. Unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des Kindesalters. (Effects of Trometamol on Metabolism with Special Reference to Children) 20 Abb. VIII, 96 Seiten. 1974.

Geheftet DM 36,—; US \$14.70. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer-Verlag/ ISBN 3-540-06664-0.

THIS SMALL VOLUME being No. 81 in the Series "Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation" deals with a substance which to us is more familiarly known as Tris or THAM. The chemistry and pharmacology of this substance are described in detail as well as its therapeutic uses in man. Two-thirds of the pages are taken up by the author's own investigations with special reference to paediatric practice and this, it would appear, is the main reason for the publication of this volume. Altogether this is a fairly complete review of THAM, its potentials and its limitations. Canadians will find it helpful to be presented with a two-page summary in English.

This book has limited application but may well interest those who for one reason or another wish to acquire a deeper insight into or refresh their knowledge of THAM.

G.M.W.

ETHRANE. Proceeding of the First European Symposium on Modern Anesthetic Agents Hamburg, November, 9th and 10th, 1973, Editors: LAWIN, P., Hamburg; BEER, R., Munich, in cooperation with WIETHOFF, E., Ingelheim. 148 figs. XIII, 389 pages. 1974. Soft cover DM 64, —; US \$26.20. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer-Verlag. ISBN 3-540-06877-5.

THIS IS VOLUME 84 in the well-known series of "Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation" published by Springer-Verlag, this one edited by Lawin and Beer.

The book is a valuable reference volume on many aspects of Ethrane, covering the properties and pharmacology of the drug, both basic and clinical, and also a considerable number of clinical studies. Unfortunately it is based on experiences prior to 1973 and much additional information has come to light since then. The contributors are exclusively European and articles are written mostly in German with some in English and some in French.

Although there are no North American contributions, the references, where they are given, reflect the considerable amount of work which has been done in the United States over the last several years. It is unfortunate that Canadian references are conspicuous by their absence, due of course to the fact that Canadian workers were not given access to the drug during its experimental stages.

This book serves well as basic background material to the understanding of Ethrane but must be supplemented by perusal of the more recent literature. A certain facility in languages will be needed to read this book from cover to cover.

G.M.W.

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR ANAESTHIOLOGIE UND WIEDERBELEBUNG. (German Society For Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation). Annual Meeting 23–26 November 1972 – Hamburg. Editors: Lawin, P., Morr-Strathmann, E. Figs. 525, 784 pages. 1974; soft cover, US \$57.30. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer-Verlag. ISBN 3-540-06803-1.

THIS BOOK represents the proceedings of the annual meeting of the "German Society for Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation" and as such is similar in format to other publications of this kind.

The book contains some 113 separate articles classified under the headings of: (1) Anaesthesia for cardiovascular operations, (2) The use of emergency vehicles, (3) Intensive therapy, (4) Reports on experimental work in the field of anaesthesia, (5) Pre- and post-op treatment of pulmonary dysfunction by artificial means, (6) New Methods and drugs of anaesthesia, as well as (7) A selection of 23 papers covering a variety of subjects.

As might be expected, contributors to this volume are almost exclusively German with a sprinkling of other European and North American participation, and consequently the overwhelming majority of papers are written in German. The list of contributors is impressive and, as may be expected, the volume contains some very worthwhile contributions. Unfortunately the list of contributors is incomplete and some authors whose names appear at the heading of their chapter are omitted from the list.

This book is of limited value to the North American readers except as a reference volume for specific topics, always provided the reader has a good command of German.

G.M.W.

**INTRAVENOUS ANAESTHESIA** by JOHN W. DUNDEE and GORDON M. WYANT, Edinburgh and London, Churchill Livingstone, 1974. Toronto, Longmans Canada Limited. Price \$34.25.

THIS TIMELY AND EXTENSIVE MONOGRAPH on the topic of intravenous anaesthesia is to be highly commended. It constitutes in effect a very thorough review of literature relating to the pharmacology of those drugs used in intravenous anaesthesia, the techniques of their use, and clinical detail of their application in the anaesthetic situation.

R.A.C.

**TECHNIQUES OF ANAESTHESIA.** By J.A. THORNTON & C.J. LEVY, London, Chapman & Hall Limited, 1974. Price £7.00.

THIS BOOK carries as a sub-title "With Management of the Patient and Intensive Care." It tries to do far too much and does far too little and the reader is not provided with direction to other more extensive references to the topics. After 456 pages of text and appendix, the book provides only 154 references which are not keyed to the text. It is also almost unbelievable that in this era, and considering the pretensions of the volume, that all but eighteen of these 154 references are derived exclusively from the British literature even in areas where the primary and definitive papers are published elsewhere. The whole result is inadequate and parochial, and the book cannot be recommended.

R.A.G.