

Book Reviews

Difficulties in Tracheal Intubation

I.P. Latto and M. Rosen (eds.) Baillière Tindall
(W.B. Saunders, Toronto), 1985, 179 pp. \$42.00

This is an excellent monograph. As stated in the preface, the aim of this book is to provide a broad survey of tracheal and endobronchial intubation, and the problems surrounding the techniques, with a view to giving sufficient guidance to the practicing, more experienced anaesthetist who has to tackle difficult problems. In this, the authors succeeded admirably.

The book begins with a short review of the anatomy of the airways, followed by a comprehensive dissertation on the pathophysiological effects of tracheal intubation as well as its complications. The chapters on causes and management of difficult intubations should be read by all trainees and practicing anaesthetists. Although the information is readily available, it is usually scattered widely over many sources. In this book it is presented in a detailed and useful way. This subject is rarely covered properly in standard textbooks. There is also a special chapter on difficult and failed intubation in obstetrics, with a detailed plan for a "failed intubation drill." The final chapter on teaching intubation should be of interest to those involved in teaching programmes.

This book should find a place in every departmental library.

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Anesthesia in Obstetrics. Maternal, fetal and neonatal aspects.

G.A. Albright, J.E. Ferguson II, T.H. Joyce III, D.K. Stevenson. Second edition, 1986, Butterworth Publishers, Stoneham MA. \$69.95 (U.S.)

Three additional authors have been added since the first edition of this text. The additional expertise provided by a neonatologist, perinatologist and a

second anaesthetist is evident and underlines the importance of a team approach in obstetrics. The stated purpose of this book is to "provide a comprehensive, up-to-date, readable source of information on all important aspects of obstetric anesthesia" and in this they have succeeded.

In my opinion, the highlight is the critical comments sprinkled liberally throughout by Drs. Gertie Marx, Frank James, Michael Rosen, Ken Ueland and Philip Sunshine. Their pertinent comments, again well referenced, provide additional viewpoints based on their experience. These are helpful and, on occasion, will stimulate controversy.

This text provides a readable and practical guide to obstetrical anaesthesia. The practicing anaesthetist who does obstetric anaesthesia will find many suggestions to improve his/her anaesthetic management. Residents will also find it invaluable.

There is an error in the text. In the section on physiology of pregnancy, the words BUN and Creatinine have been reversed such that the Creatinine level is given as $13 \pm 3 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{dl}^{-1}$ and the BUN is given as $0.67 \pm 0.14 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{dl}^{-1}$.

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Major Issues in Critical Care Medicine

Joseph E. Parrillo, Stephen M. Ayres (Eds.)
Williams and Wilkins, 1984, Baltimore. \$38 (US)

This book is based on a National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference devoted to Critical Care Medicine. According to the preface this book is intended to summarize the scientific evidence and reasoning regarding the important issues in Critical Care Medicine expressed by the experts.

This book is not an in-depth discussion of major issues or topics. In general the chapters are very succinctly written and provide nurses, respiratory therapists and house officers a general understand-

ing of various aspects of organ dysfunction and failure. Users of the text must remember that the approach on each issue reflects that of the author of each chapter and that other approaches also exist.

Since the book was published in 1984, the bibliography is only current to 1983. The sections on the Issues of Training, Education, Staffing and Administrative structures of Critical Care Medicine is worthwhile for individuals working in Intensive Care Unit planning and administration.

The book provides a good working guideline for individuals dealing with intensive care patients and administration but should not be considered a text book or manual.

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Anesthésie loco-régionale

L. Lecron. Editions Arnette, Paris, 1986

Un total de 62 auteurs ont contribué à ce livre de 1000 pages dont les références les plus récentes sont de 1984. Ce livre est pour une bonne partie, la publication des sujets traités lors des journées d'enseignement post-universitaires d'anesthésie et de réanimation (J.E.P.U.) de 1984 consacrés à l'anesthésie loco-régionale. Ceci peut expliquer certaines déficiences au niveau de la présentation comme l'absence d'index alphabétique des matières, l'absence d'indication des parties et des sous-parties dans le texte, l'absence de numération de tableaux et de références à ces tableaux, la place secondaire donnée aux figures pour un travail de cette ampleur et de cette nature, les répétitions fréquentes tout au long du livre.

Pour ce qui est de la qualité des textes, elle varie beaucoup étant donné le nombre important d'auteurs, malgré l'effet d'agencement évident du directeur de la publication. Il convient cependant de souligner l'ampleur des sujets traités, la qualité de la deuxième partie qui traite de la pharmacologie des anesthésiques locaux et des dérivés morphiniques, et de la quatrième partie portant sur les anesthésie médullaires.

En résumé, ce livre n'est pas celui qu'on recommanderait pour l'enseignement de la technique d'un

bloc, mais celui qu'on recommande pour la compréhension de la pharmacologie, des effets physiologiques et secondaires des blocages nerveux, en particulier médullaires. Ces aspects ne sont habituellement pas aussi bien développés dans les livres portant sur l'anesthésie loco-régionale.

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A Primer of Water, Electrolyte and Acid-Base Syndromes

E. Goldberger (Ed.) Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1986

This book has been so standard a part of the anaesthetic library for so long that the appearance of a new edition is always an occasion of great interest. The seventh edition is a worthy successor to the line. The format is unchanged generally speaking. However, there have been some significant and wise deletions which take advantage of the general interest in nephrology and the proliferation of texts specifically concerned with this subspecialty. Thus, the chapter on peritoneal dialysis has been entirely removed from this most recent edition. However, the text is still a step by step introduction to water and salt and other electrolytes in a logical and lucid fashion with an emphasis on clinical states, their presentation, pathophysiology and therapeutics.

The contributions of the second author of the text are unobtrusive but welcome.

This is still a valuable volume for any anaesthetic library and it should continue to do yeoman service in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

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