

## Book Reviews

**Anaesthesia – Review 4**, edited by Leon Kaufman. Pp. 234. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1987. £14.95.

The essence of any Review is that it is as up to date as possible. As an editor myself, one can only have sympathy for colleagues trying to get a multi-author publication out as quickly as possible. This excellent paperback, the fourth in the series edited by Dr Leon Kaufman, was planned to appear on the 140th Anniversary of the demonstration of ether anaesthesia at University College Hospital on December 21st 1846. The publication date slipped back to May 1987, not much, but the result is that the vast majority of the references are from 1985, 1984 or even earlier.

Nevertheless, it is a useful book for anaesthetists to browse through. If the sixteen subjects covered are ones you wish to scan, if you want references galore, you need look no further. Of particular value are the chapters written by physicians, or with a strong medical, as opposed to anaesthetic, slant. Clinical anaesthetists can all too easily fall behind with some of the pharmacological advances in cardiac and respiratory care. The chapters on asthma and antiarrhythmic drugs I found particularly helpful, while of the specifically anaesthetic topics, chapters on narcotics, recovery from neuromuscular blockade, and laser surgery anaesthesia were also clear and, considering the limited space, comprehensive.

If one was to express a reservation, two chapters headed 'Update' seem less than necessary. Cardiac arrest is followed by one 1985 reference, as is midazolam. Fentanyl merits four, one from 1976, none newer than 1984. And some of these that follow the endocrine response to stress appear earlier in the book in the section on the endocrine response to surgery.

Anaesthetic Review is a good series. I hope they keep appearing, but surely it should be possible for the finished article to be published within six months of the last chapter being submitted.

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**Atlas of Clinical Gastroenterology**, edited by J.J. Misiewicz, C.I. Bartram, P.B. Cotton, A.S. Mee, A.B. Price and R.P.H. Thompson. Illustrated. Edward Arnold, Gower Medical Publishing, London, New York, 1987. £57.50.

The concept of this new atlas by 6 British authors is excellent – to provide extensive visual documentation of the normal and abnormal using clinical photographs, pathological specimens, histology, radiology and other imaging techniques. I understand the slides have been taken from a 20 volume slide collection which numerous gastroenterologists have already found very useful in preparing lectures for teaching purposes.

The strength of the book is when all the modalities have been brought together successfully. The colour is generally good but the histology slides stained with haematoxylin and eosin are sometimes uniformly purple. The explanatory line drawings are excellent. Despite the vast number of illustrations, one felt the authors had been forced, in producing an atlas of reasonable size, to omit complementary studies. Some of the endoscopic pictures are of very poor quality, particularly those of the upper gastro-intestinal tract. Better quality pictures should have been demanded for printing in an atlas of this stature.

The main criticism is that of the text. The authors have not given any lead or guidance as to which investigations are least expensive and invasive and most productive in various problems. For instance we all know that isotope scans, ultrasound and CT can all demonstrate hepatic secondaries. But the pick up rates, and what determines these, are crucial information and guidance should have been given. The section on pancreatic carcinoma and ampullary carcinoma is muddled. The advice to remove a bezoar endoscopically is rash. The clinical differentiation of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis without emphasis on incidence of pain and bleeding is unusual. When 2 pages are given to oesophageal atresia, surely the omission of any mention of Mallory Weiss tears, a common condition, is a misjudgement – or was this the deliberate mistake left for the reviewer, and why can't the English spell (celiac and esophagus – ugh!).

Overall a good try and a splendid idea, but one looks forward to a more discriminating and polished second edition.

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**Atlas of Pediatric Physical Diagnosis**, edited by Basil J. Zitelli and H.W. Davis. Pp. xiii + 496, illustrated. Edward Arnold, New York, London, 1987. £65.

This new book is outstanding. It might however perhaps be more accurately described as an extremely well illustrated work on physical diagnosis in paediatrics rather than as an 'atlas'. The authors, who are almost all affiliated to the University of Pittsburgh, are to be congratulated on the text which is substantial and authoritative but written with a clarity and style seldom encountered in American textbooks. The scope is comprehensive so that almost all of the established paediatric medical and surgical subspecialties are separately represented and the often neglected fields of paediatric nutrition, abuse, and gynaecology, are all included.

There are numerous tables which encapsulate schemes of classification and differential diagnoses in a succinct, carefully laid out format and which are given prominence by means of a lightly toned background. Full use is also made of line drawings and diagrams, coloured where

appropriate to illustrate important anatomical relationships or to assist in the interpretation of the figures, radiographs and clinical signs. But it is the clinical photographs themselves which deserve particular praise. They are all in colour, are of remarkably consistent quality, and convey a sense of freshness and vitality which has recently become rare. Few would disagree with Frank Oski in his foreword who concedes that while there may not be any true substitutes for clinical experience, this book comes 'as close to being there as any I have ever seen'.

All involved in the study and practice of paediatrics will derive enjoyment and benefit from this volume by virtue of its content, quality, and immediate clinical relevance. Having regard for the wealth of illustration and use of coloured material the price of the book is extremely reasonable although it might prove a little daunting for individuals at the beginning of their careers. Nevertheless it will provide an invaluable addition to departmental, hospital and postgraduate libraries and to them it is commended without reservation.

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**Baillière's Clinical Gastroenterology: International Practice and Research. Vol. 1, no. 1, January 1987. Liver Tumours**, edited by Roger Williams and Philip J. Johnson. Pp. x+210, illustrated. Baillière Tindall, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, Sydney, Tokyo, Hong Kong, 1987. £15.00 (UK & Irish Republic), US \$25.00 (USA & Canada), £18.50 (all other areas).

This first volume of a new series sets a high standard. Roger Williams and Philip Johnson edit 10 chapters describing the latest work on liver tumours. The section on aetiological factors emphasizes the global role of hepatitis B and discusses the possible mechanisms by which this infection may lead to hepatocellular carcinoma. The clinical features and natural history of liver tumours are well covered and there is an authoritative account of carcinoid and neuro-endocrine tumours by Hodgson and Matin. Mention is made of new treatment approaches such as somatostatin analogues and interferon. The wide range of known tumour markers and their role in monitoring treatment is exhaustively covered by Warnes and Smith. While there are hopeful new advances, alpha feto protein and CEA remain the most useful markers. There are sections on imaging techniques, the use of monoclonal antibodies in tumour detection and treatment as well as experimental liver tumours. The role of surgery is lucidly covered by Guest and Blumgart and they repeat their well known views on the risks and disadvantages of carrying out a needle biopsy of what may be a resectable liver tumour. The place of surgery for large, cavernous haemangiomas and the single hepatic deposit of colorectal carcinoma is emphasized but they are rather dismissive of liver transplantation. Roger Williams takes a characteristically more optimistic view of the place of liver transplantation for primary liver cancer and emphasizes

the need for regular surveillance of patients at risk so that tumours may be detected early before extra-hepatic spread has occurred. The role of chemotherapy for primary and secondary tumours is well set out including new developments such as the implantable Infusaid pump. I was sorry to see no mention of advances in immunotherapy.

Overall, the editors have done a worthy job with this volume which I can recommend to both general and specialist readers.

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**Cancer in the Neck: Evaluation and Treatment**, edited by David L. Larson, Alando J. Ballantyne and Oscar M. Guillaumondegui. Pp. viii+280, illustrated. Macmillan, New York, Toronto, London, 1987. £62.00.

*Cancer in the Neck* is a specialized volume which concentrates on the major metastatic problem of head and neck cancer, whereas most books on the subject concentrate on the problems created by the primary tumour. It has 3 editors and 47 contributors with sections on 'the biological behaviour of neck metastases', 'evaluation of the neck specimen', radiotherapy, surgery and chemotherapy and a final section incorporating a variety of unrelated topics. The chapters on cellular biology are detailed and interesting but the four chapters on evaluation of the neck specimen could have been edited with advantage. The section on radiotherapeutic considerations contains a chapter on the basic principles of radiobiology in Head and Neck Oncology, which although well written and informative is not inevitably required in this volume.

Currently there is considerable debate among surgeons specializing in Head and Neck Oncology, about which type of neck dissection should be performed and specifically as to whether a radical neck dissection can be avoided safely in selected cases and a more conservative operation performed in its place. The last part of this volume is addressed to this problem with clear statements from surgeons with profound experience in this field but with different surgical philosophies and backgrounds. They represent the conflicting views of the Sloan-Kettering Memorial Hospital in New York and the M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas. This book offers a distillation of their experience and the editorial comments offer guidance and interpretation for the less experienced. The numbers of patients in their series are considerable but the arguments cannot be concluded on statistical grounds, in the absence of controlled trials.

This book is well presented and illustrated; it is of great interest to specialists in the field although some sections are repetitive and disappointing. It is a very specialist book offering a unique collection of experience within it.

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