
This book presents the proceedings of a small symposium sponsored by the Ciba Foundation that took place in London in July 1977. The purpose of the symposium is adequately reflected by the title of the book, and was admirably adhered to by all of the participants. Each participant is an internationally recognized authority in his particular area of interest. Each presents his material in a clear, concise fashion, followed by an open discussion among all of the participants. No other book has succeeded so well in synthesizing the diverse (and at times contradictory) available information about the control of the cerebral vasculature. The careful reader will fully grasp where we have been, where we are now, and where we should be going—in sum, the state of the art.

Somewhat unusual (and welcome) for a book of this sort is the considerable critical attention and space given to a variety of methodologies now in common use for examining cerebral vascular physiology. This includes discussion of various micro-electrode techniques, the elegant [14C]deoxyglucose method for measuring local cerebral metabolic events (Sokoloff), methods for "manipulating" the blood-brain barrier (Ropartz), and histochemical techniques for studying neurotransmitters (Owman and Edvinsson). There is a brief but excellent chapter by McDowell, in which he summarizes and discusses, in a most lucid fashion, the influence of anesthetics on cerebral vascular control. The recurring dilemma presented by the anatomically-demonstrable rich innervation of the cerebral vasculature (by both an extrinsic and intrinsic system) and the difficulty in demonstrating a physiologic "purpose" for such innervation are again confronted and again not resolved. Some evidence is presented that neural influence on the cerebral vasculature may be important in extreme circumstances such as severe hypertension. All of the material in the book is generously illustrated and referenced. A subject index provides for quick access to specific points.

Upon completion of this book, the reader will still not know what controls the cerebral vascular smooth muscle. If you are comfortable in the belief that hydrogen ion concentration in the extracellular fluid of the vascular smooth muscle is the major determinant, then you will be unsettled. The participants conclude that either vascular control is determined by multiple factors (H+, K+, Ca++, CO₂, adenosine, prostaglandins, neuronal, etc.) or, if there is a common messenger, it has not even been conceived of yet.

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This paperback is made up of contributions from the recent house staff of the Department of Anesthesia of the Massachusetts General Hospital. The book is intended, as the preface states, "For the inexperienced and incompletely trained anesthesiast." The early sections of the book describe preoperative evaluations, preparation before induction, and techniques of induction, followed by techniques of anesthesia for the different types of surgical procedures. In addition, the book has chapters dealing with common anesthetic problems, emergencies complicating anesthesia, and anesthesia and diseases of specific organ systems. In other words, the book covers the entire range of anesthesia.

Its strong points are that the book is pocket-sized and thus, can be always available, and that the chapters are well organized, with the information presented in a brief and concise fashion. In the chapters about anesthesia for specialty areas, there are descriptions of not only common anesthetic procedures, but also uncommon procedures. One good example of this is in the chapter on thoracic anesthesia, in which management of tracheal reconstruction and resection, an uncommon procedure in many hospitals, is done in excellent fashion. The tables and graphs are well done and easy to read.

The book's weak points are definitely fewer in number than its strong points. However, the print is small and few references are listed.

All in all, the book is an excellent handbook of anesthesia for the medical student, nurse anesthetist, and junior anesthesia resident. In fact, we are recommending that all new residents in Anesthesiology obtain a copy.

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This volume can be recommended on several grounds—one, it does fill a void. It consists of a compilation of basic enzymology rounded out by, naturally, the effects of various anesthetics on the function and integrity of those various enzyme systems that have been investigated in this regard. It is unfortunate that, as practicing anesthetists, we have not progressed to the point where we can perform on-line measurements of suble yet life-sustaining biochemical reactions with the sophistication and ease with which we perform pulmonary function tests and determine cardiac outputs and other physiologic variables. Thus, in the day-to-day existence of the clinical anesthetist, enzymatic kinetics seem as remote as electron-stripped compressed atoms in the centers of white dwarf stars. Dr. Foldes' book reminds us that there are more than ERK and blood pressure changes occurring in our art.

On the other hand, the text is somewhat of a filler. It is too comprehensive to be classified as elementary, but certainly not as inclusive as that in the classic Deutscher Handbuch. The author admits many readers will not read the book cover to cover, and has directed each chapter towards independence. To be fair, this is generally true, with the exception of Dr. Aszaló's seven chapters. These chapters are well written and a keystone of the volume. Paradoxically, however, many of the best-worked-out enzyme kinetics are ones to which little attention has been given by researchers.
in anesthesiologic pharmacology. An obvious exception is the acetylcholinesterase system, nicely put forth by Dr. Foldees.

In summary, a needed addition, soporific reading, but worthwhile for the inquiring anesthesiologist.

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**General Surgical Operations.** Edited by R. M. KIRK. Illustrated.  

"This book is written primarily as a practical manual for the general surgeon about to carry out an operation," as stated in Professor Kirk's preface. Nineteen British surgeons, most of them from London, have contributed their expertise. Although written for the general surgeon, all the surgical specialties are represented, with at least one chapter devoted to each. Nine of the 27 chapters are devoted to abdominal surgery, three to orthopedic surgery, and one each to other specialties, including a chapter on oral and dental surgery.

In keeping with the stated goal to produce a practical manual, each section addresses a specific surgical problem, e.g., cholecystectomy. Only operative aspects are considered, pre- and postoperative diagnosis and treatment being specifically excluded. Each author has described that approach which he has found simplest and best. The type of incision, intraoperative assessment of surgical pathology, operative diagnostic techniques such as cholangiography, and a concise, detailed step-by-step description of the preferred operative technique are provided. Many sections additionally address choice of anesthesia, difficulties that may be encountered, use and choice of drains, extent of resection, and management of items such as when to open the colostomy.

This work admirably fulfills its intended purpose. For the well-trained general surgeon who has occasion to review a procedure he does not commonly perform, but with which he has had prior experience, the text permits a rapid review of the salient features and provides a safe, acceptable means of dealing with the problem. It is perhaps most valuable in urgent or emergency situations.

The book is printed on high-quality paper with excellent line drawings appropriately interspersed, showing the essential surgical anatomy and technical details. Written by British surgeons, some technical terms, especially the eponyms, may be unfamiliar to American users. References to key articles or books follow each chapter. A comprehensive index is included.

The work can be recommended to well-trained general surgeons for quick review of procedures not commonly performed. Surgical house officers and students may find it useful as a means of focusing on specific operative problems posed by a given patient. Books such as this are commonly put in inaccessible places such as surgical libraries. This text would be most useful if placed in the surgeons' lounge.

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The title of this book is somewhat misleading since, at the beginning of the first chapter, the author defines pharmacology as including not only matters relating to drug actions and interactions but also the various topics usually considered separately under the heading "Pharmacy." The objective is to provide "... useful information for all levels of personnel engaged in respiratory care" and, in general, the objective is achieved. However, the format will be more acceptable to respiratory therapists than to physicians in search of a specialized extension of their pre-existing basic information.

Among the interesting and somewhat unique features of the book are two introductory chapters covering such items as legislation affecting drugs, dosage forms and routes of administration, and the prescription, and a series of sections on calculating drug dosages. Few assumptions regarding prior experience are made and, for example, there are sections on calculating dosages from prepared-strength liquids, tablets, and capsules and on calculating dosages from percentage-strength solutions. Sample problems are given.

Those chapters that deal with specific drugs and their actions include the various bronchodilators, mucolytics, surface-active agents, corticosteroids, cromolyn sodium, antibiotics, skeletal muscle relaxants, and prostaglandins. Each chapter is well laid out, with the basic information necessary to understand the activity of each group of drugs and then specific sections on each type of medication. Typically, this includes information under the headings: Identification, Strength, Dosage, Mode of Action, Hazards, Special Notes. The information provided is appropriate and, although there are no references in the text, each chapter concludes with a bibliography.

This small text does provide information highly relevant to the activities of the respiratory therapist and critical care nurse and the material is, to my knowledge, not available in any other single location. It should be a very useful addition to respiratory therapy libraries, and it should probably be available among the books provided for critical care nurses. It is inevitable that, in writing a small specialized text, some very difficult decisions must be made regarding what to include and exclude. This is particularly the case with respect to discussions of general principles. The author has elected to include comments on Receptor Theory of Drug Action, the Dose–Response Curve, and Some of the Principles of Drug Absorption and Transport. Notable exclusions are the problems of volume distribution and the general principles influencing kinetics. In a book largely devoted to the administration of aerosols, it was disappointing not to find a more specific discussion of the balance between local and systemic effects. Unfortunately, from my perspective, the author has elected to handle this subject in relation to specific drugs such as corticosteroids and antibiotics, rather than to devote a section to this topic of unique concern to respiratory therapists.

Of the information about nonbronchodilator drugs the author has elected to include, that describing muscle relaxants is probably appropriate. However, it is less clear that a section on prostaglandins is appropriate for such a limited text, and I would have preferred to see a chapter summarizing central nervous system depressants. I would also not have included pharmacologic agents no longer on the market. For example, a page on pancreatic dornase begins with the statement that it is "no longer available."

The only factual misinterpretation or omission I detected relates to the mechanism by which some bronchodilators may decrease arterial oxygen tension. This section would have been greatly improved by a brief description of hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction as an autoregulatory mechanism, followed by a summary of the effects of the various bronchodilators on this mechanism.

I imagine that this little book will prove popular, and am con-