they will especially enjoy the participant interchanges that follow each section, area and consideration.

Harvey M. Shapiro, Ph.D.
Departments of Anesthesiology/Neurosurgery
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, California 92039

Pain—from Symptom to Treatment. By Manuel M. Villaverde

The authors of this book have set themselves an almost impossible goal: provide a guide to the management of pain, given a specific anatomic locus (e.g., head or abdomen). From the perspective of a patient suffering agonizing pain this may be laudable. From the physician's point of view, conversely, this approach largely ignores the underlying disease process. In this book, pain of all sorts is treated almost indiscriminately with analgesics or, rarely, with topical anesthetics. Nerve blocks, physical methods, psychological management—not to mention acupuncture—are, if not ignored, dismissed.

The book's introductory quarter superficially describes the many drugs used to combat pain. Much valuable page space is taken up by trivial details regarding dosage forms and preparations. Being more familiar with them, I glanced at the section dealing with local anesthetics. There I find that 20 mg cocaine may cause "serious toxic symptoms"; that procaine is "the most widely used local anesthetic"; and that "... lidocaine should be used when ephedrine is contraindicated." The one brief paragraph listing lidocaine's pharmacology is next to useless. Newer local anesthetics such as mepivacaine and bupivacaine are not even mentioned. I suspect that a good pharmacology text will provide more authoritative and more complete information without undue intellectual stress on the reader.

The index lists key words only and evinces little attempt at cross-referencing; the writing style is heavy and difficult, often reading as if translated. Flowery words abound, hard facts are few. Pain might perhaps be useful to paramedics in isolated regions where medical assistance is not readily available, but anesthesiologists will find little return for the purchase price.

Rudolf H. de Jong, M.D.
Senior Editor
Journal of the American
Medical Association
Chicago, Illinois 60610


The author presents a technical reference manual that is adaptable to most hospital settings, and gives the student or beginner an overview of the procedures involved in patient care prior to operation and through the postoperative phase.

The book is heavy with descriptions of the clinical apparatus and the specific equipment needed in various settings. It includes a complete chapter on the "Preparation of the Anaesthetic Room," but the writer's approach is technical and deals superficially with anaesthetic agents and drugs. She does not mention nursing assessment or the value of an in-depth knowledge of the pharmacologic properties of anaesthetic agents and drugs. In sum, the text is a truly excellent "how to" manual—how to position a patient on the operating room table, how to support an airway, etc.—but says little about "why."

The book is approached from a general application standpoint and is adequate to the realm of performance of certain aspects of patient care.

Shirlee Connell
Nurse Coordinator
Recovery Room
EE: 207 University Hospital RC-36
Seattle, Washington 98195


This book encompasses a large volume of information relating to many commonly occurring respiratory diseases, as well as many of the more exotic entities seen only rarely in clinical practice.

The authors begin in traditional fashion, with a brief description of structure and function of the lung. This is followed by a short but concise chapter on the epidemiology, which provides a useful perspective for consideration of the various conditions subsequently described. Prefacing the discussions of individual diseases are four appropriate chapters outlining the clinical manifestations of pulmonary disease, diagnostic methods, principles of chemotherapy, and immunologic aspects of pulmonary disease.

The main body of the work, pertaining to individual diseases, primarily emphasizes aegy, epidemiology, pathology, clinical presentation, and outpatient chemotherapy. Discussions of pharmacology, pulmonary physiology, and treatment of physiologic abnormalities have largely been avoided.

Notably absent are attempts to deal with pathologic pulmonary conditions resulting from chest trauma, "shock," surgical procedures, cardio pulmonary bypass, and a host of other insults that frequently lead to the clinical picture commonly referred to as "adult respiratory distress syndrome." Although full consideration of these problems is undoubtedly beyond the scope of this publication and best reserved for a book on "acute respiratory care," their virtual absence from a textbook of respiratory diseases is perhaps misleading. The prevalence of these problems among hospitalized patients probably would justify their inclusion, in abbreviated form, within a textbook of this nature, with appropriate references for those particularly interested in the subject. Another neglected topic is that of pulmonary edema; although this clinical problem used to fall primarily in the jurisdiction of the cardiologists, more recent knowledge of the development of pulmonary edema following localized pulmonary vascular injury suggests this as an area of increasing concern by the respiratory physician. It might, therefore, have been appropriately included in a more detailed fashion than the half page devoted to its consideration, which is extremely confusing to read at best.

The material presented represents a distillation of the authors' knowledge gained through years of clinical practice, teaching, and an "inevitably limited study of the literature." The bibliography is therefore not exhaustive, and the authors have frequently relied upon their own extensive clinical experience in choosing modalities of therapy. As such, the book presents a sound basis for methods of good clinical practice generally accepted in both the United Kingdom and the United States. (Occasional differences in the selections of therapeutic agents primarily reflect differences of availability in the two countries) The reader, however, may frequently be required to consult other reference sources when searching a particular area.

As the result of good organization and a pleasing style of presentation, the book is readily usable. It has been directed by the authors principally at the "postgraduate" level, and should provide a useful base of information for those particularly interested in pulmonary disease when complemented by other