Book Reviews

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Techniques in Cardiac Surgery, 2nd ed, by Denton A. Cooley, M.D., Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1984, 416 pp, $75.00.

This book, a manual dealing with the operative technique for surgery of the heart and great vessels, is written almost entirely by Dr. Denton A. Cooley, Surgeon-In-Chief of the Texas Heart Institute, Houston—an individual whose personal experience in cardiac surgery is unequaled. The only chapters not written by Dr. Cooley are "Revascularization of the Ischemic Myocardium" by George J. Reul, Jr., M.D., and "Cardiopulmonary Assistance" by O. Howard Frazier, M.D. Both are colleagues of Dr. Cooley at the Texas Heart Institute.

The usefulness of an operative textbook is proportional to its detail, the personal experience of the authors, and the quality of the illustrations. This manual scores high in all three areas. Dr. Cooley's enormous personal experience has enabled him to focus on crucial technical points, to delineate potential intraoperative pitfalls with accuracy, and also to construct a comprehensive text. Consequently, this work is not merely a primer. Even surgeons with extensive experience of their own will find valuable insights. The quality of the illustrations is important, not only for precision in communicating the details of operative techniques to experienced surgeons, but also for making the work useful to surgeons-in-training and non-surgeons who may not completely understand anatomic and operative concepts without clear pictorial representation. The clarity, standard style, and logical progression of the illustrations make these operative procedures understandable even to the inexperienced.

In general, the single-author format is efficient and consistent, and the comparatively small size of the book makes it handy as well as comprehensive. The text concentrates on the operative technique itself; therefore, there is little discussion of the long- and short-term results of operation. This is the single most useful book dealing with the operative aspects of cardiac surgery, and it will be valuable for a spectrum of readers, including cardiologists and cardiac surgeons, either in training or practicing.

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Heart Disease: A Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine, 2nd ed, edited by Eugene Braunwald, M.D., Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1984, 1,844 pp, $99.00.

Textbooks like *Heart Disease* are a pleasure to receive and review. If well done—and this one is—they are not only useful, concentrated tools for study, but also visual and palpable symbols of the history and tradition and present and future direction of a given discipline. Reading sections of *Heart Disease* either for casual perusal or detailed study is worthwhile because old concepts and factors are reinforced and new ideas are clearly presented.

The format of this book is similar to that of the first edition. There are four large sections:

1. Basic evaluation of patients and review of current diagnostic technologies,
2. Discussion of abnormal physiology,
3. Discussion of specific disease states, and finally,
4. Review of the heart and its relationship to noncardiac disease states.

For the most part, the writing styles are clear and direct. The tables and illustrations are detailed and generally well-reproduced. The references are extensive. The index seems excellent, which is extremely important for a book of this type. New and expanded sections dealing with electrophysiologic testing and the advanced treatment of complex cardiac arrhythmias have been included, as have reviews of magnetic resonance and radionuclide imaging. Digital subtraction angiography is discussed, but not in any great detail.

This is not a book for the medical student or junior physician. But, for an active student of cardiovascular disease who is at any age or level of training, *Heart Disease* can be a very valuable tool and should have a place on that individual's bookshelf.

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Prevention of Coronary Heart Disease: Practical Management of the Risk Factors, edited by Norman M. Kaplan, M.D., and Jeremiah Stamler, M.D., Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1983, 232 pp, $35.00.

Cardiovascular disease has reigned notoriously