

Book Reviews

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Cardiac Emergencies, ed. by Melvin M. Scheinman, Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders, 1984, 416 pp, \$29.95.

Cardiac Emergencies is an excellent and clinically useful monograph which covers a wide range of subjects, including acute myocardial infarction and its mechanical and electrical complications, acute aortic dissection, cardiac compression syndromes, the major pulmonary problems of acute embolization, and acute respiratory decompensation. The title is a little misleading as the text of each article goes beyond descriptions of the acute emergency phase of cardiac illnesses into the areas of advanced supportive and therapeutic intensive care. In addition to treatment, most sections review important historical, pathophysiologic, and diagnostic aspects. In general, the writing is clear and direct. The format of the chapters is clearly identified by appropriate and self-explanatory subheadings. The tables and illustrations are sufficient and well reproduced. *Cardiac Emergencies* should be of interest and help to not only the cardiovascular specialist, but also to the internist who is involved in the care of acutely ill patients with cardiac problems and the postgraduate physician-in-training who is learning to identify and deal with patients with these serious difficulties.

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Therapeutic Approaches to Myocardial Infarct Size Limitations, ed. by David J. Hearse and Derek M. Yellon, New York, Raven Press, 1984, 255 pp, \$42.00.

On review of the title, one might expect a "how to" review of the clinical efforts of the last 10 years regarding myocardial infarct size limitation. Instead, the foreword by Doctor Oliver of Edinburgh challenges the methods and assumptions of past efforts, and from that introduction, there follows a series of essays from which emerges a framework made up of the current understanding of myocardial and cellular injury and death, macrocirculatory and microcirculatory function and responses to injury, variation in intraspecies and interspecies collateral systems, and

the wide variety of tools used for study. The ideas of lateral and transmural ischemic border zones are reviewed, and the importance of remembering that human coronary atherosclerotic disease is a multifaceted problem which needs to be studied with different models at different stages in its evolution is re-emphasized. Finally, with the current efforts of reperfusion with a variety of mechanical and pharmacologic tools in mind, a shift in approach from absolute attempts to save cells in the face of a fixed obstruction to an attempt to delay death until the obstruction can be removed or reduced is suggested.

Therapeutic Approaches to Myocardial Infarct Size Limitations is for the interventionalist because it gives a sound review of basic cellular and circulatory physiology upon which his or her efforts begin.

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Urinary Stone, ed. by Rosemary Ryall, Gwynne J. Brickis, Willis Marshall, and Birdwell Finlayson, New York, Churchill Livingstone, 1984, 391 pp, \$55.00.

This book represents an edited collection of subject matter presented at the Second International Urinary Stone Conference held in Singapore in 1983. It is a group of papers representing current investigation of urinary stone disease from geographically diversified areas. The editors have done an excellent job of organizing the material into clinical and experimental sections, although the emphasis is on the latter.

Coverage in the clinical areas include current thoughts on the epidemiology of calculous disease. There are several studies dealing with possible nutritional factors and environmental aspects. Perhaps the great advances in the treatment of calculous disease in the past five years have been in surgical management—specifically in the use of shock-wave and ultrasonic fragmentation. Both of these modalities are reviewed here by leaders in their respective fields. The studies about newer modalities for the medical man-