

Book Reviews

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Anesthesia and Neurosurgery, edited by James E. Cottrell and Herman Turndorf (Mosby).

The first edition of *Anesthesia and Neurosurgery*, published in 1980, successfully combined the subjects of basic neuroscience and clinical neuroanesthesia. This second edition seems to have accomplished that and more. Expanded chapters deal with anesthesia for patients with neuroendocrine disease, pediatric neurosurgery, and carotid endarterectomies. New chapters about the physiology of pain mechanisms, the management of both acute and chronic pain, and the complications of neuroanesthesia are well done. The controversial and difficult subject of the role of free radicals and antioxidants in regional cerebral ischemia is clearly written. This reviewer particularly liked the chapter about cerebral aneurysm management, which was divided into three sections (neurologic aspects, anesthetic management, and induced hypotension). The chapter dealing with neurologic intensive care would be useful for physicians involved in the critical care of patients with neurosurgical problems.

Subspecialization in anesthesia is becoming increasingly popular. There are currently about 50 fellowship programs in neuroanesthesia. Texts like *Anesthesia and Neurosurgery* help to stimulate an interest in the subspecialty. This book will serve well as a standard text for both trainees and anesthesiologists interested in neuroanesthesia and is also recommended for any physician managing neurosurgical patients.

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The Heart and Cardiovascular System—Scientific Foundations, edited by Harry A. Fozzard, Edgar Haber, Robert B. Jennings, Arnold M. Katz, and Howard E. Morgan (Raven).

This two-volume book presents the current understanding of basic cardiac physiology. It contains reviews of cellular membrane physiology, contractile

function, and cell-to-cell interaction, then relates these to organ-level myocardial-pump and electrophysiologic function. Descriptions of investigative laboratory techniques used are incorporated into many of the chapters, giving a picture of the logic and capability of research. Clinical technologies such as radionuclide techniques, echocardiography, magnetic resonance, and angiography are discussed as tools for the continued study of ventricular function, coronary flow physiology, and cardiac-cell function. The various chapters primarily present the basic science upon which laboratory investigation and clinical and therapeutic study in practice are based.

The scope and detail should make *The Heart and Cardiovascular System* a basic and important reference source for cellular physiologists, clinical scientists, and students of advanced basic science. This is not a text about cardiac disease and thus will be of less immediate use to an active clinical practitioner or house officer. From a clinician's point of view, however, this book presents the material that we all wish we knew better, and having the information in a concentrated, collected, well-written form should make access to these important, fundamental data easier and more likely to be sought out.

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Kidney Transplant Rejection: Diagnosis and Treatment, edited by G. Melville Williams, James F. Burdick, and Kim Solez (Dekker).

This 506-page book is well balanced, well documented, and reasonably up to date. The first third of the text describes the biology of the allograft response; the middle third, the diagnosis of rejection; and the last third, the treatment of transplant rejection with new immunosuppressive agents.

Unfortunately, the book does not begin on a high note. The first chapter, entitled "Proteins and the Molecular Basis of Cell-Mediated Immunity," gives only a paucity of information on the HLA antigens, repeatedly calls β_2 -microglobulin " β_2 -macroglobulin,"