BOOK REVIEWS


The first edition of this book was composed of a compilation of articles written by members of the Resuscitation Council (UK) that were published in the BMJ. The standards and guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation were revised by the Resuscitation Council (UK) in 1989 and they are incorporated into this new edition. Three new chapters on trauma, resuscitation in late pregnancy and on avoiding HIV and hepatitis infection have been added. The Council’s recommendations have been updated throughout and other revisions have been made in view of current theory and practice.

There has been a noticeable improvement in this book. The print is bolder, the line drawings have been improved and the illustrations and photographs have now been annotated. Most of the photographs of equipment have been updated. The references in the text have been numbered (with the exception of those at the end of the chapter on post-resuscitation care) and can be referred to at the end of each chapter. A comprehensive list of further reading is to be found at the end of the book.

The book was originally published in A4 format and this has been retained. Possibly it is a pity that this book does not fit into the pocket of a white coat, but really the contents of this book should be committed to memory.

It is the wish of the DGAMS that every medical officer in the Corps should be proficient in Advanced Cardiac Pulmonary Life Support (ACPLS). This book provides the knowledge; training and practice will be required. This book should be purchased, not just read, by every RAMC Medical Officer – it is super value and may save many lives.

J Restall


The ever-increasing number of drugs on the market means that the pharmacology textbooks are becoming larger and larger. It is very difficult for the average anaesthetist to be familiar with all the drugs that may be relevant to his clinical practice. This book is a concise handbook which contains information on 172 drugs in an easily accessible form. It does not replace the standard texts on pharmacology for anaesthetists since it does not include discussion on the principles of pharmacology, an understanding of which is essential for the clinical use of drugs.

The 173 drugs are laid out in alphabetical order which obviates a need for an index or the artificial categorisation of some of the drugs. Each drug is presented in an identical format and confined to one or two pages of text. The main pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic properties of the drugs are listed and the information is presented in an ordered fashion which should be of use to the examination candidate. This standard format offers the advantage of speed of access to information which is not the case with the Data Sheet Compendium. For example, the question “How is propofol metabolised?” may be answered simply by locating the drug alphabetically and consulting the “Metabolism” section of the text. This principle is applicable for all possible permutations of queries.

I believe that this book will prove to be most useful to anaesthetists of all grades. It is relatively expensive at £24.00 and it is a pity that it is not a paperback which fits easily into the pocket of a white coat. Nevertheless I do recommend this little book without reservation.

J Restall