Information will be useful for hospital staff who receive patients on an occasional basis with injuries sustained as the result of an accident in the mountains. Finally, with the increase in training undertaken by individuals for hard rock-climbing and sport climbing, sports injuries clinics will find the chapter on the management of the resulting injuries valuable.

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Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation

This pocket-size book covers all the essential aspects of adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation in a very readable fashion. In addition the management of cardiac emergencies associated with special circumstances, myocardial infarction and paediatric resuscitation are described. Post-resuscitation care, bereavement and acid base abnormalities are also covered briefly.

Each chapter is laid out logically with all, but one, starting with a summary of the key points. The whole text is informative with ‘resuscitation in hospital’, ‘management of acute myocardial infarction’ and ‘management of common arrhythmias’ providing excellent descriptions of the respective topics.

The new European Resuscitation Council Guidelines for adult advanced life support are used, but not for basic life support. This may lead to some confusion. Similarly the paediatric protocols for both advanced and basic life support are not the latest recommendations.

My main concern about the book relates to what has been left out. In particular the descriptions of practical procedures such as basic airway management, defibrillation and thoracotomy could benefit from additional diagrams or text. However, this may not be a fair criticism because the authors do state that the aim of the book is to provide ‘theoretical knowledge’.

Apart from this point I have only minor suggestions to make for this otherwise excellent book. There are two misprints (‘bed’ instead of ‘lead’ on page 79 and 35 m.Eq/l instead of 3.5 m.Eq/l for potassium on page 148), one point of inconsistency with regard to the resuscitation team structure, a recommended list of cases for internal cardiac massage which are questionable and the term ‘drowning’ used when ‘near drowning’ would be more appropriate.

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