

### **Year Book of Critical Care Medicine 1990**

Edited by M. C. ROGERS and J. E. PARRIL  
Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1990.

The material in this annual reviews literature published up to July 1989 and as such is already somewhat dated, a direct consequence of the rapidity at which the field of critical care medicine is advancing. For the clinician with an interest in resuscitation this is a useful volume to be dipped into.

Each paper selected is summarised and has an editorial review appended. Some of these comments obviously reflect the opinions of the reviewer and this is sometimes quite noticeable.

The series can be recommended for those clinicians in Accident & Emergency who like to keep abreast of current thoughts in critical care medicine and resuscitation.

P. NIGHTINGALE

### **Intensive Care Manual**

Edited by T. E. OH  
Butterworths, Sydney, 1990, 700 pp.

It is now 5 years since the second edition of this manual was published and it has grown appreciably since then, in line with the tremendous advances in intensive care medicine which are occurring. The organization of the book remains the same with short chapters giving practical advice followed by selected references. This format works well for those people seeking help and advice in a lucid and concise format, but deliberately falls short of an all-encompassing reference book. Virtually all the authors are from Australia and this shows in chapters such as those dealing with organization in the ICU and on envenomation. However the text is easily assimilated by the U.K. reader.

In summary, a readable yet comprehensive introduction to intensive care which will find a wide readership amongst both medical and nursing staff. Recommended.

P. NIGHTINGALE

### **Anesthesia in Emergency Medicine**

Edited by G. S. VANSTRUM  
Little Brown & Co., Boston, 1989.

This is a new book in the burgeoning field of publications devoted to emergency medicine but it has however managed to find a very useful niche. In just over 400

pages, the book succeeds admirably in illustrating how the anaesthetists role is vital in the emergency room team and could be read with profit by the anaesthetist and non-anaesthetist, especially the comprehensive chapter on management of the airway. Case presentations are scattered throughout the book and help to bring home the unique problems that can arise during resuscitation and demonstrate what can and needs to be done when there is little available history. Since the book is American there is some dissimilarity with units and drugs, but these are only minor and do not detract from what is an excellent compendium.

P. NIGHTINGALE

### **Splanchnic Ischemia and Multiple Organ Failure**

By A. MARSTON *et al.*

Edward Arnold, London, 1989. £65.00

This beautifully produced book which is both multi-disciplinary and international focuses on a problem which has grown to the fore in recent years, that of the relationship between splanchnic ischemia and the onset of multiple organ failure in the intensive care unit. Following lucid chapters on the anatomy, physiology and patho-physiology of the splanchnic circulation, the role of systemic mediators of splanchnic origin is considered.

Finally, in the last half of the book, specific organ injury syndromes, such as ischaemic pancreatitis and acalculus cholecystitis are considered, with the role of the gut as the driving factor behind the onset of multiple organ failure considered in detail.

This book will be read with interest by those in the surgical and critical care fields and surely will increase the awareness of the need to monitor the function of the gut as an indicator of the adequacy of resuscitation and hence tissue oxygen transport. The means to do this are described in the book but have yet to achieve widespread clinical acceptance.

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