



BOOKS

RESUSCITATION OF BABIES AT BIRTH*

Joint Report: Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Pp. viii + 61. Illustrated. £13. BMJ: 1997. ISBN 0-7279-1179-1.

This little paperback is meant to be used as a template for the development of locally agreed policies for resuscitation of babies at birth, and it should be a real help to anyone concerned with that. Much of the content could be incorporated verbatim.

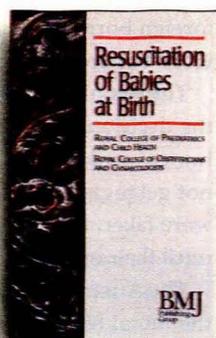
It starts with a brief discussion of general principles and the physiology of asphyxia, followed by the preparations required before the baby is born, the need for a specific person to be responsible for the baby at delivery, and how the baby is handled after delivery. Unnecessary suction is warned against and the importance of examining breathing, heart rate and colour is stressed. But only in a later chapter on record keeping is the reader told that muscle tone and response to stimulation also need to be observed closely in order to record the Apgar score at 1, 5 and 10 minutes. It is a real pity that the observations required for Apgar scoring are not integrated into the procedure. They are, after all, of some clinical use during resuscitation.

Chapters on the airway, breathing and circulation follow. Then the book backtracks to positive pressure ventilation and external cardiac compression. Rather disconcerting if one is attuned to an ordered ABC approach!

Recommendations for the use of naloxone hydrochloride (Narcan) to reverse opioid-induced apnoea are open to misinterpretation. Page 13 suggests that naloxone may be given within the first 2 minutes after birth. On page 26 it becomes clear that the proper place of naloxone is somewhat later, i.e. only 'when the airway is secure, ventilation has been achieved and the baby is pink with a good spontaneous heart rate'.

Medications and fluids, meconium, pneumothorax, acute blood loss, hydrops fetalis, diaphragmatic hernia, and the very preterm baby are described succinctly. And a page on communication with parents and other professionals is filled with wisdom.

Finally there are two short appendices. The first, an account of deliveries considered to be at risk, omits caesarean section from the list of situations where someone experienced in resuscitation should be present. The second, a list of equipment, includes shouldered endotracheal tubes. These are seldom used outside



the United Kingdom for fear of serious damage which may result if the shoulder is rammed into the larynx by an inexperienced or anxious and flustered user. And there is no warning against that!

A glaring omission is the absence of even the most elementary advice regarding protection against HIV infection. For information on this the reader is referred to a report of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Overall, this is a clear and useful distillation of current practice. If you need to prepare resuscitation guidelines for your staff and want a clear and reliable model, this is the place to start. But it is not, and is not intended to be, a cookbook for the novice – the ingredients are there but guidance is required to bake the cake.

M Klein

PAEDIATRIC EPILEPSY SYNDROMES AND THEIR SURGICAL TREATMENT

Edited by I Tuxhorn, H Holthausen and H Boenigk. Pp. xxx + 894. Illustrated. £85. John Libbey & Co. Ltd.: 1997. ISBN 0-86196-536-1.

Epilepsy surgery is still in its infancy in South Africa and likely to remain there for a considerable time to come, given the doldrums presently besetting the teaching hospitals. This major textbook will nevertheless have considerable appeal for paediatricians, neurosurgeons, neurologists and all others looking for up-to-date information in a burgeoning field. Of added local interest is the identity of the chief editor. Ingrid Tuxhorn belongs to the diaspora of doctors trained in South Africa who have achieved distinction in the wider world. She and her two co-authors have enticed papers from across Europe and North America which between them cover, not only every aspect to epilepsy surgery in childhood, but also a great deal

BEST SELLERS

The top three best selling books from the Multimedia Publishing Book Department in the last month were:

Advanced Paediatric Life Support. Second edition. The Advanced Life Support Group. R375. BMJ: 1997. ISBN 0-7279-1069-8.

ABC of Diabetes. Fourth edition. By Peter J Watkins. R240. BMJ: 1998. ISBN 0-7279-1189-9.

ABC of Work Related Disorders. Edited by David Snashall. R240. BMJ: 1997. ISBN 0-7279-1154-6.

* Book titles marked may be ordered directly from SA Medical Association Multimedia Publishing Book Department, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 531-3081, fax (021) 531-4126, e-mail multimedia@samedical.co.za or jstrydom@samedical.co.za



about the pathogenesis of epilepsy, its treatment and the effect which the condition has on the lives of affected children and their families.

The book has been divided into 11 sections. The first two consider ethical matters, economic aspects, the effect of focal epilepsy on cognition and emotional well-being and the assessment of outcome after surgery. The next two sections examine failure of medical treatment and the whole spectrum of cortical dysplasias which are so often found to be the underlying cause of intractable epilepsy. The fifth and sixth sections look in detail at pathology, pre-operative assessment and postoperative outcome of temporal lobe epilepsy, the phakomatoses, hemimegalencephaly, Rasmussen encephalitis and a number of other syndromes including infantile spasms. The latter five sections cover the presurgical work-up of children with intractable seizures and the various surgical options – temporal lobectomy, hemispherectomy, corpus callosotomy and multiple pial resections.

The list of authors constitutes a pantheon of the names at present prominent in the field – Arcardi, Taylor, Dravet, Dulac, Andermann, Polkey, Hoffmann, Engel, Freeman and Peacock to name just a few of those familiar to South African doctors. Despite this diversity of authors there is a constancy of scholarly style, a sufficiency of appropriate illustrations and a long list of references at the end of each paper.

It is to be expected that a major work of this nature will not come cheaply and at more than R800 most doctors will think twice before purchasing a personal copy. I do think however that every medical library should have a copy and that paediatric neurologists, neurologists and, above all, neurosurgeons should make a special effort to read it. Who knows? The book may well provide the catalyst needed to get surgery for childhood epilepsy off the ground in South Africa.

P M Leary

ORAL MORPHINE IN ADVANCED CANCER

Third edition. By Robert Twycross. Pp. vi + 42. £5.95. Beaconsfield Publishers Ltd. ISBN 0-906584-45-0.

Although oral morphine is not the panacea for cancer pain, its appropriate use has revolutionised cancer pain management. Many doctors and nurses have a markedly negative attitude towards the medicinal use of morphine. These views stem from ignorance about and misunderstanding of the correct use of morphine in cancer patients.

This booklet makes interesting and easy reading. It is written in a very practical question-and-answer format covering most of the frequently asked questions by patients, families and medical practitioners. It covers topics such as indications, principles of usage, adverse effects and management thereof, dosage, morphine intolerance, modes of administration, and conversion factors. It also emphasises addressing the many factors influencing the perception of pain as regards total pain and not just the physical component with morphine.

This booklet offers an abundance of practical knowledge essential to every medical student, nurse and medical practitioner dealing with patients who have an incurable disease. It is well worth the price.

P A Kraus

BOOKS RECEIVED

The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The *SAMJ* does not publish unsolicited reviews.

Stroke Units: An Evidence Based Approach.* Edited by Peter Langhorne and Martin Dennis. Pp. xv + 112. £25. BMJ: 1998. ISBN 0-7279-1211-9.

Improving the Performance of Health Centres in District Health Systems.* Pp. vi + 64. SwFr14/US\$12.60. WHO: 1997. ISBN 92-4-120869-4.

Lexicon of Cross-cultural Terms in Mental Health.* Pp. 41. SwFr15/US\$13.50. WHO: 1997. ISBN 92-4-154505-4.

Sickle Cell Pain. Progress in Pain Research and Management Volume 11.* By Samir K Ballas. Pp. ix + 379. Illustrated. US\$87. IASP Press: 1998. ISBN 0-931092-22-1.

Hypnosis in Treatment. An Ecosystemic Approach.* By David P Fourie. Pp. 135. R65. UNISA: 1998. ISBN 1-86888-041-9.

Monster Busting. Assisting Children with Emotional Difficulties.* By Merrilee van Niekerk. Pp. 181. R79. UNISA: 1998. ISBN 1-86888-037-0.

101 Years of a New Kind of Rays. By Dr Wilfred C G Peh. Pp. xv + 183. Illustrated. US\$24.95. Miller Freeman Inc: 1996. ISBN 981-00-8300-9.

Clinics in Diagnostic Imaging. By Dr Wilfred C G Peh. Pp. xx + 255. Illustrated. US\$14.95. Miller Freeman Inc: 1998. ISBN 981-04-0133-7.

Medieval Surgery.* By Tony Hunt. Pp. xvi + 104. Illustrated. £14.99/US\$69.00. Boydell Press: 1992. ISBN 0-85115-324-0.

Post-War Mothers. Childbirth Letters to Grantly Dick-Read, 1946-1956.* Edited with an Introduction by Mary Thomas. Pp. xiv + 247. £35/US\$59.95. University of Rochester Press: 1997. ISBN. 1-878822-87-X.

Polio.* Edited by Thomas M Daniel and Frederick C Robbins. Pp. viii + 202. £19.99/US\$29.95. University of Rochester Press: 1997. ISBN 1-878822-90-X.

Captain of Death: The Story of Tuberculosis.* Pp. 296. Illustrated. £30/US\$49.95. University of Rochester Press: 1997. ISBN 1-878822-96-9.

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