

E. R. Roaf,¹ M.D. and R. F. Gibbs,² M.D., J.D.

A Review of "Anaesthetics, Resuscitation and Intensive Care: A Textbook for Students and Residents"

REFERENCE: Norris, W. and Campbell, D., *Anaesthetics, Resuscitation and Intensive Care: A Textbook for Students and Residents*, 4th ed., Churchill Livingstone/Longman, Inc., New York, 1973, 289 pages, \$7.00.

Somewhat less than 300 pages long, this small, paper-covered book is intended for medical students and "housemen." First written in 1965, this popular British anesthesia text is now in its fourth edition. Although well written and cleanly illustrated, the book attempts to deal with altogether too much material in too few pages to be anything but an introduction. The charts, pictures, and line drawings are frequently used to great advantage and are clearly the book's finest feature.

The chapters about anesthesia techniques are concise and generally well done, although a few extra pages might have produced a more thorough work. Especially well done is the chapter on anesthetic machines. The title leads one to expect resuscitation and intensive care will be a major thrust of the text. Resuscitation is dismissed in eleven pages and discusses only maintenance of airway and external cardiac massage. The problems of management of various arrhythmias and the pharmacology and the use of several medications found on the emergency cart are omitted. The single chapter on the intensive care unit is inadequate. The authors scarcely allude to the advances of the last decade in respiratory care. Both resuscitation and intensive care should properly be purged from the title of this handbook, as well as the final chapter on "Mishaps and their Medico-legal Aspects." Reference to potential civil liability is misleading. The subject matter, while treated very superficially here, would more aptly be called uncommon complications.

¹Anesthesiologist, Boston Hospital for Women and instructor in anaesthesia, Boston Hospital for Women, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. 02115.

²Senior anesthesiologist, Boston Hospital for Women and assistant professor of anaesthesia, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. 02115.