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Reviews

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Abstract

- Behaviour of the Human Ureter in Health and Disease James Ross / Peter Edmond / Ian Kirkland Churchill-Livingstone 1972. £3.50
- Medical Treatment, a Textbook of Therapy in Four Volumes Volume VI. K. Maclean & G. Scott J. & A. Churchill, London 1971. £2.25.
- Proceedings of the Symposium on Epidural Analgesia in Obstetrics
- 1972, London Editor, Andrew Doughty, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S. Published by H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. London. Price £1.50

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REVIEWS

BEHAVIOUR OF THE HUMAN URETER IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

James Ross / Peter Edmond / Ian Kirkland
Churchill-Livingstone 1972. £3.50

This excellent book, as well as recording the results of the authors' research on the pressure and wave patterns of the ureter in health and disease, presents a concise summary of contemporary thought on each topic dealt with.

The clinical side is not forgotten as each chapter has radiographs and clinical cameos of the disease process under investigation. The clinical application of the author's technique is exemplified in the chapter on the effects of drugs. It would appear that the more frequent use of atropine and morphine in renal colic is indicated.

Unfortunately the cost of this excellently written and produced book puts it beyond the reach of the average student.

Jim Loose

MEDICAL TREATMENT, A TEXTBOOK OF THERAPY IN FOUR VOLUMES

Volume VI. K. Maclean & G. Scott
J. & A. Churchill, London 1971. £2.25.

Unlike other books of this type, this paperback textbook gives an immediate source of information in a concise and readable manner.

The actual context of medical treatment has emphasis on the patient rather than disease yet there is no guarantee of success in its suggested medical treatment.

Fraser R. Lindsay

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON EPIDURAL ANALGESIA IN OBSTETRICS

1972, London
Editor, Andrew Doughty, M.B., B.S., F.F.A.R.C.S.
Published by H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. London.
Price £1.50

This book records the proceedings, of one of the bi-annual meetings of the Obstetric Anaesthetists

Association, devoted entirely to discussing the various problems associated with the use of Epidural Analgesia in Obstetrics.

There is an interesting Chapter on the Anatomy and Physiology of pain in labour; many of the discrepancies in pain pathways, found by those practising Epidural Analgesia, are discussed. Maternal and foetal acid/base balance during labour and at delivery are also well covered, revealing on the whole, that, apart from introducing a possible delay in second stage of labour, Epidurals provide many benefits to both mother and baby.

The use of catcholamines, both, as locally acting vaso-constrictors, effecting the uptake and "placentation" of local analgesic solutions, and as vaso-pressors in the event of pharmacologically induced hypotension, are widely reviewed. It appears from the authors and discussants that with the advent of the newer local analgesic bupivacaine, which itself is locally-bound and therefore less readily transferred to the foetus, the use of adrenaline in the solution is only of marginal benefit and this only after frequent incremental doses and also immediately before delivery is expected. In the case of the use of vaso pressor agents it is made clear that hypotension in labour is likely to be due to (a) inferior vena caval obstruction, (b) sympathetic blockade resulting in lower limb blood sequestration, or other conditions of relative hypovolemia. Posture and expansion of the blood volume are the avenues of choice for treatment and only as a last resort should vasopressor agents be used.

There are several interesting articles devoted to technique of Epidural Block, Neurological and other complications, inferior vena caval occlusion and also the particular use of Epidurals in pre-eclampsia. The experience of one of the greatest protagonists of Epidural Analgesia is also obtained, from his observations of 1,000 cases and, finally, there is some pithy and even emotional discussion on "Why are Epidurals not more widely practiced"?

This 115 page book is a "must" for all who are interested in Analgesia in Labour. There is much science and good commonsense and little wasted reading material.

J. Wilson, F.F.A.R.C.S.