

History of British Intensive Care, c.1950-c.2000

Edited by LA Reynolds, EM Tansey
Queen Mary, University of London 2011
Price £6.00. Pp 157
ISBN 978 0 90223 875 6

In the inaugural year of the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine, this book reflecting on the first 50 years of a medical specialty considered to be still in its infancy is both a timely and enjoyable read. The book is one in the series of 'witness seminars' documenting the development of 20th century medicine. Edited by medical historians, the book represents a direct transcript of a



meeting of those involved in the development of intensive care.

The book opens with the development of mechanical ventilation, from negative pressure ventilators used during the polio epidemics and culminating in the development of the first positive pressure ventilators. The difficulties of developing a dedicated unit are examined next, evolving from side rooms on wards with ventilators on trolleys, to the large units we have today. Developing the critical care community presented other challenges, but persistence has led to development of our own faculty. The important contribution of multi-

disciplinary teams is not forgotten, with the contribution that both physiotherapists and technicians have made to our understanding of rehabilitation and the increasing use of technology.

This is an intriguing read giving insight into how the modern day intensive care unit has evolved and the ingenious ways that problems have been overcome. Overall, I enjoyed it more than I initially thought I would.

The book is flimsy and the picture quality poor, consistent with original historical prints, with a particularly large appendix, but is a bargain priced at £6 as well as being freely available online and worthy of being in any intensivist's library.

Rachel Baumber, North Central London School of Anaesthesia, London

Pediatric Neurology: A Color Handbook

James F Bale Jr, Joshua L Bonkowsky, Francis M Filloux, Gary L Hedlund, Denise M Nielsen, Paul D Larsen
Manson 2012

Price £49.95. Pp 392
ISBN 978 1 84076 134 4

This generously illustrated handbook is largely written by paediatricians from the State Hospital in Utah, USA. It is divided into two main sections; the first dealing with core concepts in paediatric neurology and the second a problem-based approach to specific disorders. The chapters detail a paediatric approach to neurology; the first section describes the clinical examination and standard investigations (neurophysiology, genetics, neuroimaging and CSF studies) and the second section details neurological disorders, including neurodevelopmental and acute and chronic conditions.

It is a challenge for any book to cover such a broad area and this one manages to cover a wide range of topics. The written text is brief, each chapter starts with a summary of key points and includes boxed highlights. Photographs are used to particularly good effect in the chapters on pediatric examination and the dysmorphic child, and magnetic resonance images, histopathology slides and neurophysiology traces are liberally used throughout.

For the British-based paediatric neurologist, this reads very much as an American textbook and reflects their practise. There

is a greater emphasis on developmental evaluation since in the USA children with neurobehavioural disorders are often monitored by neurologists. The pattern of infectious disease differs – cat scratch fever, neurocysticercosis and infantile botulism are detailed but there is little mention of measles, varicella or mycoplasma, and the autoimmune encephalitides are not discussed. Prescribing practice differs, particularly noted in the drug management of epilepsy. Inevitably some areas lend themselves better to an illustrated book and the sections on epilepsy and movement disorders are very brief.

Overall this book has much to offer with all its illustrations and succinct practical approach to many common paediatric presentations in neurology.

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Oxford Handbook of Medical Imaging

Michael J Darby, Dominic A Barron, Rachel E Hyland

Oxford University Press 2012
Price £29.99. Pp 440

ISBN 978 0 19 921636 9

Radiology is pivotal in diagnosis and management across all specialities. It is therefore imperative that clinicians have a thorough understanding of the imaging techniques available as well as the optimal use of these whether they are faced with presenting symptoms or signs, or a specific condition.

The *Oxford Handbook of Medical Imaging* is a user-friendly, pocket-sized quick reference guide to all the modalities and techniques of imaging for a wide spectrum of common and important medical and surgical conditions.

The first chapter covers all the imaging techniques including description, indications, drawbacks, patient preparation, contraindications and complications.

The book uses a system-based approach, with each system subdivided into three sections. The first section covers common presenting symptoms giving differential diagnoses. The second section deals with the imaging approach to these and the optimal imaging modality to use and why. The third section covers common and important conditions within the system. For each condition there is a brief overview and clinical presentation followed by a discussion of the relevant imaging techniques and their value. These are listed in an easy to follow bullet point format for quick reference.

The text is lavishly illustrated throughout with high quality labelled images with explanations. There is also a section on what useful information to include for the radiologist on the request form. The editors should be congratulated on compiling such an indispensable handbook for clinicians, radiology specialist registrars, medical students, radiographers, nurses and anyone involved in imaging.

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