

Fundamentals of Anaesthesia (4th edn)

Edited by Ted Lin, Tim Smith, Colin Pinnock
Cambridge University Press 2017
Price £84.99. Pp 983
ISBN 9781107612389

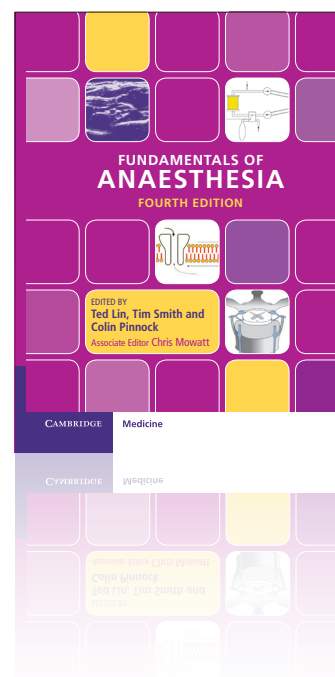
While one's first impressions of the fourth edition of *Fundamentals of Anaesthesia* is that it is a vast book, and thus somewhat of a daunting text to delve into, it is without doubt an outstanding tome. Superbly written, and filled to the brim with a mass of facts and concepts, it puts all you need to know to pass the Primary FRCA in one place.

The four subsections relating to clinical anaesthesia, physiology, pharmacology, physics and clinical measurements, are encompassed within 46 chapters written by a myriad of well-known names. Clearly laid out, and having been updated in keeping with the renewal of guidelines and advances in knowledge for each field, the book is contemporary and surprisingly

easy to read. Well-defined tables and diagrams are used to add to its clarity, and the authors strive to make it easy to identify 'key facts and concepts which merit emphasis', with eye-catching green and yellow coloured boxes. These can be referred to independently, without interrupting the flow of the main text, and certainly served well to restore many bygone concepts that had long ago slipped from my memory.

So yes, this book is immense, but if you give yourself ample time to consciously work your way through it, you will be not only armed with ample knowledge to pass the required FRCA exams, but more importantly, furnished with a sound comprehension of the fundamentals of anaesthesia to serve you throughout a long career.

Ned Gilbert-Kawai, University College London Hospital, London



Aging and Development: Social and Emotional Perspectives (2nd edn)

Peter F Coleman, Ann O'Hanlon
Routledge 2017
Price £29.99. Pp 248
ISBN 978184872376

This slim text provides an excellent overview of the field of developmental psychology of ageing. Most clinicians will associate developmental psychology with the study of childhood but emerging evidence suggests individuals continue to develop psychologically throughout adulthood, right into old age and very old age.

Coleman and O'Hanlon take the reader through the historical and current theories of adult development, ageing and adaptation, followed by succinct summaries of the current ongoing research in this field. As with all medical and psychological concepts in relation to old age the health and social context of the patient cannot be ignored and the complex inter-relation of these areas in old age is explored, including ongoing spiritual and emotional development. The book emphasizes that ageing is not a solely negative process and there are easily as many positive aspects to

the ageing process. Mental development rather than decline occurs for many, and development is still possible even in the context of dementia and physical frailty.

The authors do not shy away from the difficulties of ageing including, for example, a chapter on living well with dementia. The book is easily readable and well structured, providing a unique insight into this niche area of research. The book will appeal to geriatricians, trainees and clinicians working with older adults, including old age psychiatry. The price of £29.99 makes this an affordable, as well as enjoyable, read.
Amy Illsley, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds

Biliary Disease: From Science to Clinic

Edited by Gideon Hirschfield, David Adams, Evaggelia Liaskou
Springer 2017
Price £66.99. Pp 264
ISBN 978 3 319 50166 6

This compact and readable book has a broad ambition to cover the basic science, clinical practice, future therapies and advances in this wide field. The authors aim to appeal to a broad range of people

studying or working with biliary disease 'from science to clinic'. To that end they provide a concise but detailed overview of the current understanding of the diagnosis and management of biliary disease.

Topics covered range from biliary disease epidemiology, cellular biology and pathology to the role of the microbiome and animal models. The authors have endeavoured to connect the basic science to clinical practice in every chapter. Some sections are necessarily more extensive than others (e.g. primary biliary cholangitis *vs* gallstone disease) and this reflects the complexity of the underlying disease and its management.

The chapters are well chosen to cover the speciality. The text is well organized and easy to follow and search with paragraph headings. The book lacks an index which is a disadvantage when different chapters may contribute to the same topic, e.g. cholangiocarcinoma. Photos and graphics are plentiful and colourful. For a slim and manageable volume there is a satisfying level of detail. This will prove to be a very useful textbook and reference for clinicians and other professionals working in the field of biliary disease.

James Rink, The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Shrewsbury