

REVIEW

RESUSCITATION AND CARDIAC PACING Edited by Gavin Shaw, George Smith and Thomas J. Thomson. Cassell, London pp 256 30/-

This is a collection of articles constituting the proceedings of a conference on Resuscitation and Cardiac Pacing held in March 1964 in Glasgow. The conference was organised by the Glasgow Postgraduate Medical Board, a joint body by the University of Glasgow and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. The conference occupied six sessions dealing with subjects like pathology, causative factors and management of circulatory arrest and the practical considerations of the indications and experience in cardiac pacing by different methods.

The contributions include many who have been pioneers in the field and hence the reports are mainly those of first-hand experience rather than a review of the current advances. In fact, it is in this that the book can be well-received or irritating, as someone seeking current information would find the topics dealt with incompletely and the references sketchy but the person well up with the advances would on the other hand find the problems discussed stimulating and challenging. Perhaps this may be the criticism of conferences in general as insufficient time is available for the discussion of a usually too wide subject.

The sections of cardiac pacing have been practical and instructive in that they represent the experience of actual work undertaken in cases and should be of great interest to those who are mindful of the applied side, such as the problem of sepsis in implants of electrode, the actual voltage of stimulation, and the results of long term use up to a period of 2 years. Clearly more information will be forthcoming as further experience accumulates, and meanwhile, preliminary reports of this nature are of great value to other interested workers.

The sections dealing with the theoretical side of changes and causes of an arrested circulation could profitably be separated into discussion topics of many separate conferences as the work done now has been voluminous and the implications are wide. To confine discussions to a few brief sessions of a conference would be to do the subjects injustice, and it is creditable that in spite of such considerations, sufficient is produced to be of interest.

All in all, a handy book for those interested in pacing, and an informative volume for those who like to hear something of the subject.

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