

Book Reviews

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Hammersmith Cardiology Workshop Series, ed. by Attilio Maseri and John F. Goodwin (vol 1) and Attilio Maseri (vol 2), New York, Raven Press, 1984, 348 pp (vol 1), 244 pp (vol 2), \$43.00 (vol 1), \$49.50 (vol 2).

These volumes contain the presentations of invited speakers at the first and second annual European and American cardiology workshops held at the Hammersmith Hospital in London. The contributors to these volumes are cardiologists presenting original research and distinguished authorities providing overviews of complex and controversial issues. Each volume is divided into groups of related presentations. Each group of presentations is followed by a précis composed by the editor. The précis organizes the major points of discussion of each topic during the workshop and puts new developments into perspective by tempering enthusiasm and providing guidance toward avenues of research and therapy that are worthy of pursuit.

Although not as comprehensive as other annual cardiology review series, this format of presentation, discussion, and editorial comment is unique among such series. The material discussed in these volumes is nevertheless broad and covers subjects in depth.

Volume 1 is highlighted by excellent discussions of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy by Drs. Goodwin and McKenna, surgical indications for valvular heart disease by Drs. Sonnenblick, Oakley, and Braunwald, and a discussion of the Coronary Artery Surgery Study (CASS) by Dr. Killip. A large portion of this volume discusses controversies in ischemic heart disease including coronary spasm by Drs. Maseri and Harrison, and newer management techniques for acute myocardial infarction by Dr. Hugenholz. Beta blocker therapy, after myocardial infarction, is discussed by Dr. Julian. A small part of this volume deals with new cardiac imaging techniques such as positron tomography and nuclear magnetic resonance imaging.

Volume 2 contains more sections dealing with imaging techniques in cardiology. Dr. Popp discusses tissue characterization by echocardiography, Dr. Hattle assesses heart function by Doppler echocardiography, Dr. Swan discusses digital subtraction angiography of the heart, Dr. Camici presents glucose metabolism in ischemic myocardium assessed by positron

emission tomographic scanning, and Dr. Steiner discusses nuclear magnetic resonance imaging of the heart. Newer inotropic agents for use in heart failure are discussed by Dr. Braunwald, and Dr. Goodwin discusses cardiomyopathies expertly. Controversial issues such as the need for cardiac catheterization for infants and children prior to heart surgery and medical versus surgical treatment for coronary artery disease with impaired ventricular function are also discussed.

These volumes are easily read and provide current state-of-the-art concepts. The *Hammersmith Cardiology Workshop Series* should appeal to all practicing and research cardiologists, cardiologists-in-training, and to cardiac surgeons. I highly recommend these volumes to those who want to develop an analytic approach to complex issues in heart disease.

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The Theory and Practice of Infection Control, ed.

by Inge Gurevich, Patricia Tafuro, and Burke H. Cunha, New York, Praeger, 1984, 421 pp, \$34.95.

With increased emphasis on quality-care issues and in the face of greater financial constraints, hospital officials are scurrying around to find pragmatic and prudent answers to infection-control questions. This book provides readers with some insights into hospital infection problems, but falls short of its mark: to provide "a firm theoretical base from which to make recommendations."

The text is separated into three sections. The first section is a sufficient introduction which outlines the basic elements of an infection-control program. In general, guidelines, surveillance, and educational strategies and standards are well-covered. Unfortunately, the section dealing with epidemiology and outbreak investigation seems too technical and theoretical to assist an infection-control practitioner in a practical way. The second section details responsibilities in certain direct and indirect patient care areas (from the intensive care unit to the laundry). Also