BOOK REVIEWS

Academic heritage: the transmission of excellence. Cardiology at the Ohio State University. Charles F Wooley. Mount Kisco, NY: Futura, 1993. (Pp 321; $50.) ISBN 0-87993-533-2.

Cardiology: the evolution of the science and the art. Edited by Richard J Bing. Chur, Switzerland: Harwood Academic Publishers, 1992. (Pp 318; £12.) ISBN 3-07186-0549-X.

It is instructive to see how two different authors or editors can start off looking at different aspects of contemporary cardiac history and give us views that for the most part reinforce each other. At first glance a history of a mid-western state university medical school seems unlikely to be of universal interest, but Wooley recounts the circumstances that will interest future historians of cardiology. Bing, on the other hand, who is a co-author of all but one of the chapters of the book he has edited, starts with the basic historical facts. This makes his book a useful addition to libraries, though much of this information is already available elsewhere.

Wooley gives a chronological account and much of what he writes could apply to other cardiological institutions. The Ohio State University College of Medicine, formally established in 1914, had its roots in earlier institutions that merged and split over the years since 1834. Wooley comments about the indirect influence of James B Herrick and Fred Smith, who were among the first to recognise coronary thrombosis clinically. Apparently Frank N Wilson of Ann Arbor also had an indirect influence on the institution at a later stage. Another mentor was John B Hickam, who is not well known in Europe but who was a contemporary of James Warren's at the Peter Bent Brigham and later at Duke University. Hickam played a key part in Indiana whereas Warren was a pioneering figure in the clinical application of cardiac catheterisation and returned to Ohio, where he was born. In a long interview Warren discusses the development of cardiac catheterisation and what he learnt at Bellevue in New York, where Cournand and Richards had earned their Nobel Prize. Warren also emphasises the role of Emory Hospital in Atlanta, where he worked with Eugene Stead before Stead moved to Duke. Bing mentions the Emory group only in passing.

There are interesting and potentially useful snippets about people such as Soma Weiss of Boston, who influenced many of the generation of cardiologists who developed invasive procedures. Non-invasive cardiology became a subspecialty at Ohio State under the influence of Arnold Weissler, now of the Mayo Clinic. Little of this is transmitted by Bing's book, which has separate chapters on cardiac catheterisation, echocardiography, surgical techniques, and the like, with some overlap. Surprisingly, there is no section on hypertension, and an unduly modest one on cardiac pacemakers, where Senning, the Swedish pioneer, is the first author. Hellerstein, in his chapter on electrophysiology, considers basic electrophysiology rather than the clinical techniques that have become useful and recognised in the past quarter of a century; he does, however, give an extensive survey of various aspects of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The closeness of the workers to the story, particularly in Bing's book, causes difficulties with definitive accounts. Wooley does not claim to do more than to present personal memoirs. Both books are interesting and useful accounts of work in progress. Future definitive, critical, and less personal historical studies will depend on the resources used by Bing and Wooley.

DENNIS M KRIKLER

Pediatric echocardiography. Norman H Silverman. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1993. (Pp 628; £112.) ISBN 0-683-07713-9.

Several textbooks of paediatric echocardiography have been published but few are sufficiently detailed to act as standard reference texts. Dr Silverman is an internationally renowned expert on paediatric and fetal echocardiography and his latest contribution is a detailed, well illustrated textbook covering all aspects of paediatric echocardiography. The preface acknowledges that the aim of the book is to present a current approach to the evaluation of *congenital heart disease*. Fifteen of the 21 chapters deal with specific congenital lesions and no chapter is devoted solely to acquired heart disease. Rheumatic fever is barely mentioned and there are only two short paragraphs on infective endocarditis. Idiopathic and other forms of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy are inappropriately discussed in the section on subaortic stenosis. Overall, acquired disease is somewhat neglected.

By contrast, the sections on specific congenital lesions are detailed, logically presented, and very well referenced. Most chapters start with a discussion of the key morphological features of the lesion followed by a useful list of major goals for full anatomical and haemodynamic assessment. A detailed discussion of the imaging techniques for the assessment of that lesion follows. There are many black and white and colour figures, most of high quality. The author (and reader) will be disappointed, however, by the quality of reproduction of a few of the images. Some are too small and perhaps they should have been omitted. Most chapters end with a section on clinical perspective which emphasises the clinical role of echocardiography in the overall management of the condition. This logical and consistent approach will prove particularly useful for those starting a career in paediatric cardiology, as well as for echocardiography technicians who wish to be involved in the assessment of congenital heart disease.

The final chapters deal with important topics such as postoperative evaluation, fetal echocardiography, and transoesophageal imaging. The chapter on fetal echocardiography is comprehensive and well written. By contrast the chapter on transoesophageal echocardiography (TOE) is much shorter. This discrepancy perhaps reflects the clinical status of the two subjects at the time that the text was written. TOE now has a well established role in the assessment of congenital heart disease, particularly postoperatively. I hope that this aspect will be expanded in the next edition, ideally with incorporation of transoesophageal imaging throughout the text, where relevant.

This is generally an excellent reference book on paediatric echocardiography, with a bias towards congenital heart disease. Doctors embarking on a career in paediatric cardiology would definitely benefit from buying a copy early in their careers. More experienced practitioners will find it a useful reference text and all paediatric cardiology departments would do well to invest in a copy for their libraries. It will be well used.

S WEBBER

Cardiac surgery and the brain. Edited by P Smith and K Taylor. Sevenoaks: Hodder and Stoughton, 1993. (Pp 284; £65.) ISBN 0-340-55315-4.

Cardiac surgery has become commonplace and is practised on a vast scale. The major source of concern surrounding this surgery is injury to viscera consequent on the use of cardiopulmonary bypass. The brain is the most important organ that can be damaged and the possible sources of damage are numerous. This book represents the latest understanding of the problem of brain injury in relation to cardiac surgery.

The book reviews the latest techniques for investigating the extent and aetiology of the problem. The contributors are experts and each chapter is well written and extensively referenced. Of particular note is the high quality of illustrations, perhaps best represented by the outstanding retinal angiograms in Dr Blauth's and Dr Arnold's chapters.

The book presents an impressive collection of experts and it should be recommended reading for all cardiac surgeons and research workers in this important field. I found it fascinating, authoritative, and comprehensive. I have no adverse criticisms whatever and can strongly recommend an excellent publication.

D J WHEATLEY

The titles reviewed here are available from the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE. Prices include postage in the UK and for members of the British Forces Overseas, but overseas customers should add £2 per item for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque in sterling drawn on a UK bank, or by credit card (MasterCard, VISA, or American Express) stating card number, expiry date, and your full name.