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REFERENCES


BOOK REVIEW


This book gives a simple and straightforward account of the planning of an ideal hospital. It would provide a useful guide to an anaesthetist confronted for the first time with the problems involved in such an undertaking although circumstances and requirements in this country are rather different from those in the United States and financial resources are seldom likely to be on the same scale.

The author lays emphasis on two important points: firstly, designing in consideration of ultimate hospital expansion, and secondly, the importance of the anaesthetist taking his part not only in designing his own department but in the broader aspects of total patient care.

An adequate amount of detail, for the doctor as opposed to the architect, is given in most matters such as conductive flooring, illumination standards and alarum systems. Not much is said about the use of modern materials for theatre wall coverings. There are also some gaps in the account of the Central Service System. The layout and organization of such a system are dealt with thoroughly but the actual method of pre-packaging is not mentioned and nothing is said about sterilization of anaesthetic equipment apart from syringes and needles. Apart from a mechanical conveyor system, which the author himself states is “very susceptible to mechanical difficulties”, no other means of transport to and from the central supply is described.

Planning which involves adaptation of existing buildings is not dealt with but this could hardly be encouraged by a volume of this size.

The book is easy to read once the reader has become accustomed to certain transatlantic language usages such as “nursing station”, “electrical outlet” and “location below grade”. At least one word had to be referred to in the Concise Oxford Dictionary where, of course, it did not appear.

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