additional information. This book should be included in all anesthetic libraries.

Jerry M. Calkins, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Anesthesiology
Arizona Health Sciences Center
Tucson, Arizona 85724


This book was written by members of the Medical Department of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and sets forth their philosophy of medical preoperative preparation of surgical patients. Clear, concise essays of pertinent problems of the major organ systems which concern anesthesiologists are presented. Included are discussions of the circulatory system (strong emphasis on the heart and very light emphasis on the circulation), respiratory system, liver, kidney, endocrinology, hematology, neurologic and psychiatric problems, as well as a welcomed chapter on dental and oral problems. The book is an excellent review of general medical problems that plague the anesthesiologist daily.

It has certain drawbacks: I found the marginal highlights to be distracting and less useful than the rather complete Table of Contents and Index for finding information. Only one point of view is given and occasionally the authors' prejudices are different from mine. Moreover, some controversial statements are made about documentation or references. Occasionally, as on preoperative consultations, the authors could not resist the temptation to discuss anesthesia.

The concept of the book, however, is so fundamental that one wonders why it was not published sooner. It is one of the few books which I believe every anesthesiologist (and surgeon) should read, re-read, and digest.

R. Dennis Bastron, M.D.
Associate Professor, Anesthesiology
College of Medicine
Arizona Health Sciences Center
Tucson, Arizona 85724