
This book is based upon a series of lectures delivered to nursing students at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary and at the Royal College of Nursing, Edinburgh. The authors describe anesthetic methods used by present-day anesthesiologists and explain how these affect the nursing care of the patient before and after surgical operations. The book contains much useful information for nurses on the care of the unconscious patient, particularly in the recovery room, and a description of techniques of resuscitation. There is also a chapter on the care and maintenance of anesthetic apparatus, suction devices and other equipment. Since the trade names for drugs and equipment are British, this may offer some difficulty for American nursing students reading this text. There is a definite need for this type of textbook for the use of nursing students in this country.

Richard Foregger, M.D.


The purpose of this collection of 15 papers by 11 authors is to familiarize the uninitiated with the types of available electronic devices for physiologic measurement, the basic principles by which they function, and their present and possible future applications. For the most part the book accomplishes its purpose, although presentations vary in complexity from the easily understood chapter on "Acquisition of Physiological Data" to the almost incomprehensible (to this reviewer) chapter "On the Mathematics of Patient Monitoring Systems."

The chapters on "Evaluation of a Bedside Monitoring System," and "An Ideal Monitoring System," by the same author are so similar in content, and even wording, that one or the other might well have been omitted. The chapter on "Measurement of Gas Pressures and Tensions" by Richard C. Smart, B.S., is excellent, both as a summary of principles and a reference source for the clinician. A 16-page section on "Diagnosis and Control of Arrhythmias" is well organized and has an extensive bibliography, but bears little relation to electronics. The application of computers to the care of anesthetized patients is discussed in some detail, as is radiotelemetry.

This compendium is enlightening and interesting reading for the clinical anesthesiologist and has some value as a reference.

John R. Lincoln, M.D.


The authors are to be commended for preparing a clinical textbook to meet the needs of a specific audience consisting of students, interns and residents, any one of whom will be confronted with respiratory emergencies whether his practice is ultimately in hospital or at the bedside in a home. These authors, clinical teachers of anaesthetics, have succeeded in this effort eminently well in that the text is concise and precise without having fallen into the trap of creating a volume that resembles a "cookbook," outlining how to administer an anesthetic; instead, they have emphasized general principles to be followed in the care of patients under specific circumstances. The intent is to make the student's experience during his assignment to the surgical theater a rewarding one. There is the added hope of gaining his interest in the broad aspects of anesthesiology to the point of influencing him to select it as a lifetime specialty. The aim is to acquaint the reader with the problems of respiratory emergency, shock, acute cardiac malfunction and arrest, as well as introducing him to the resuscitative problems of patients involved in accidents of violence, or poisoning by inhalation or oral overdose of drugs in case of suicidal intent or accidental ingestion.

The text is recommended reading for the extern, intern or resident faced with problems of anesthesia or resuscitation. It is a volume that is also recommended for reference by the general practitioner who now and then encounters a respiratory emergency or may be forced to administer an anesthetic.

Ralph M. Tovell, M.D.