The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Respiration in Health and Disease. By R. M. Cherniack, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P. (C), Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Manitoba School of Medicine; Director, Respiratory Division, Clinical Investigation Unit, and Assistant Physician, Winnipeg General Hospital; Consultant in Respiratory Diseases to Children's Hospital and Municipal Hospital, and L. Cherniack, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P. (Lond.) F.R.C.P. (C), F.A.C.P., Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Manitoba School of Medicine; Associate Physician, Winnipeg General Hospital; Physician, Division of Medicine, Winnipeg Clinic, Winnipeg, Canada. Illustrated by Nancy Joy, A.O.C.A., Assistant Professor of Medical Illustration, University of Manitoba School of Medicine, Winnipeg, Canada. Cloth. $10.00. Pp. 403, with 92 figures and 8 tables. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, London, 1961.

The avowed purpose of this book is to elucidate the mechanisms by which symptoms and abnormal signs are produced in various patterns of respiratory disease and thus bridge the gap between technical treatises on pulmonary physiology and purely descriptive textbooks on respiratory diseases. The authors have achieved a modicum of success in filling this large order.

The volume is divided into four sections. The first section considers such basic physiological aspects of respiration as mechanics of breathing, gaseous exchange, respiratory functions of blood, and regulation of respiration. The second section describes symptoms and signs of respiratory disease. The third section analyzes patterns of respiratory diseases, diseases of the chest wall and thoracic cage, and cardiopulmonary insufficiency. The final section covers clinical, radiological, clinical-pathological and functional assessments of respiratory disease. A detailed bibliography has been omitted, but a list of suggested additional reading is included.

This good introduction to physiology and pathophysiology of respiration in relation to respiratory diseases is clearly written and readable. Diagrams and line drawings are superbly done, and add remarkable clarity to explanations and descriptions in the text. Unfortunately this book appeared at almost the same time as the first English edition of the German classic, "Respiration: Physiological Principles and Their Clinical Application," by Rossier, Buhlman, and Wiesinger, which serious students of respiration will find covers much of the same ground in considerably more-detailed and authoritative fashion.

David M. Little, Jr., M.D.


This is a very excellent text of Comparative Animal Physiology, exactly as its title states! As such it is superb in subject matter, illustrations and bibliography. The chapter topics such as: Water; Osmotic Balance; Inorganic Ions; Nutrition; Oxygen; Respiration and Metabolism; Respiratory Functions of Body Fluids; and others, through 21 sections, survey the entire animal kingdom. The authors note that the aim of the book is to serve as a text at the upper class undergraduate level or beginning graduate level, or as a reference book for principal topics in certain physiological fields. The latter function would be the chief use for anesthesiologists. The chapters on Oxygen, Muscle and Electric Organs and
Endocrine Mechanisms are excellent for our medical specialty. The fact that 4,204 references in all are given after the 21 chapters is indicative of the wealth of such information. O. Sidney Orth, M.D., Ph.D.


Only 20 pages of this 1,600-page text are devoted to the subject of anesthesia. The limited space permits only a superficial discussion of a few general anesthetic problems, which are better treated in anesthetic texts.

A number of chapters which discuss surgical problems other than those to which the authors refer as, the exposition of the central act—the operation,” would have benefited if the authors had made use of a little “anesthetic consultation.” Surgery and anesthesia cannot be divorced when treating the surgical patient either in the operating room or in the textbook.

Chapters on which surgeons and anesthesiologists could well have collaborated include: Fluid and Electrolytes, Shock, Blood Transfusions and Allied Problems, The Assessment of Operative Risk, and Nonoperative Surgical Care.

This book is of little interest to the anesthesiologist, either for teaching or for reference purposes.

William O. McQuiston, M.D.


This reference book is an accumulation of condensed selected articles from the surgical literature of 1961, some of which are enlarged upon in editorial comment by Dr. De Bakey. A separate section on anesthesia is similarly editorialized by Dr. Cullen. A feature new to this yearly publication is a section on selected references in surgery, a moderately comprehensive bibliography based on a “reading list” compiled by staff members of the Department of Surgery at Baylor University College of Medicine. The reader quickly appreciates in which discipline of surgery Dr. De Bakey is interested, since there is a tremendous overbalance and emphasis on cardiovascular surgery, particularly in the abstracting of articles from Dr. De Bakey’s own pen. The section on anesthesia is similar to the presentations in Survey of Anesthesiology, including the mysterious formula by which articles are selected for review. However, the total presentation is well done and should be of interest to both surgeons and anesthesiologists.

J. Gerard Converse, M.D.


This small volume is based on the clinical experience of the author, who is chief surgeon at the Sanatorium Schillerhöhe of the LVA Württemberg Stuttgart-Gerlingen. It is essentially a picture book, illustrating bronchial pathology, with excellent endobronchial photography, mostly in color. The text consists of brief discussions of various diseases and the technique of bronchoscopy, and occupies only 33 pages. Three pages are devoted to changes in the shape of the trachea, including flattening, compression, deviation and collapse.

This book is of incidental interest to the anesthesiologist, and is of real value only to bronchoscopists.

Jay Jacoby, M.D.