BOOK REVIEW

A MANUAL OF RESPIRATORY FAILURE
By Eli Rush Crews, M.D. and Leopoldo Lapuerta, M.D.
Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, $11.75

This book provides in a very clear and easily understood manner the basic current knowledge for anyone interested in this rapidly growing field of medicine.

There are few, if any, books of this scope presenting so succinctly such practical basic information for physicians who have little understanding of respiratory failure, interpretation of blood gases, and their application to treatment. This is also an excellent book with specific chapters for nurses and inhalational therapists who are or will be caring for patients with respiratory failure.

There are chapters devoted to the history of respiratory failure, physiopathology, laboratory and clinical diagnosis, treatment guidelines, mechanical ventilation and discussion of respirators. There are special chapters on the management of pediatric respiratory diseases, care of the surgical patient with respiratory diseases, airway obstruction problems, tracheostomy and intubation techniques and complications.

Reading this book will provide one with an excellent grasp of worthwhile current concepts regarding the understanding of respiratory failure.

ELEMENTS OF PEDIATRIC ANESTHESIA
By C. R. Stephen, M.D., E. Warner Ahlgran, M.D. and Edward J. Bennett, M.D.
Charles C. Thomas, Publisher

Since the last edition 15 years ago, many radical changes have occurred in pediatric anesthesia especially in pharmacology, techniques, and general knowledge. There is an excellent discussion of the physiological background of pediatric variations including specific reference to the premature and neonate regarding preoperative preparation, anesthetic management, fluids, and post operative care. The newer pharmacologic agents for premedication are discussed along with a detailed consideration of the newer parenteral agents for anesthesia. New concepts of relaxant drugs in the severely ill and cardiac infant are mentioned. There is a good unique basic discussion on newer concepts in fluid balance and replacement and temperature regulation. Also presented are techniques for anesthesia with special reference on monitoring and a detailed chapter on anesthesia for special procedures peculiar to infants including most anomalies and their inherent problems. An eloquent chapter on respiratory therapy and current concepts in pediatrics has been added.

This book is a valuable addition for anyone dealing with pediatric anesthesia and pediatric intensive care.

Thomas A. Koelz, M.D.
Anesthesiologist
Charles T. Miller Hospital
125 W. College Ave.
St. Paul, Minnesota

Selected References