

tion of the blood, an alternate method of appraising the acid-base state is given. The content capacity diagram is substituted for the pH bicarbonate diagram. To use this content-capacity diagram only the values of the carbon dioxide content of arterialized blood plasma before and after equilibration with carbon dioxide at a partial pressure of 40 mm. are required. The errors inherent in the methods of obtaining these values are pointed out.

Lastly, the author describes useful laboratory methods for (1) the drawing of blood, (2) measuring the hydrogen ion concentration, (3) centrifuging blood and (4) equilibrating blood.

This book evidently has been written to serve as a guide in the teaching of a course in acid-base chemistry. Lectures or discussions must be used to supplement the material in the book. The mathematical preciseness with which acid-base chemistry is explained is to be admired. However, acid-base chemistry cannot be accurately evaluated clinically by laboratory determinations of the hydrogen ion concentration and bicarbonate values, nor are such determinations always necessary. Moreover, in severe air-base disturbances it may be necessary to determine the total electrolyte pattern of the blood. The presentation of basic physiology is difficult and is tedious to read. Admittedly, there is no easy way to learn acid-base chemistry. This book will be of value to students, whether they be undergraduates or graduates, if they are engaged in the study of acid-base balance.

RICHARD KAY, M.D., AND
RALPH M. TOVELL, M.D.

Blakiston's New Gould Medical Dictionary. EDITED by HAROLD W. JONES, M.D., NORMAND L. HOERR, M.D., ARTHUR OSOL, PH.D., an eminent editorial board and 80 additional contributors. Three editions: textbook \$8.50, thin paper \$10.75 and deluxe \$13.50. Pp. 1294 and 252 illustrations (129 in color). Philadelphia. The Blakiston Company, 1949.

The book not only covers all branches of medicine and allied sciences exhaustively but includes medical physics, dentistry, pharmacy and other related fields. The illustrations are bound in the center of the book as an atlas. The plates are well prepared anatomical charts and drawings.

A unique feature is the combining of a system of modern phonetic respelling syllabification to give alternate pronunciations. Many words not usually found in medical dictionaries have been included and very short biographical notes of scientists and physicians whose names are associated prominently with medicine have been added. The appendix contains an extensive list of useful tables. Printing is excellent with easy to read text. This new venture in providing a more comprehensive book of this nature will surely be welcomed and prized by students and others having need to use such a book. It should set the pattern for some time to come in the preparation of such a volume.

E. A. ROVENSTINE, M.D.