

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by MEREL H. HARMEL, M.D.

Peridural Analgesia and Anesthesia. By P. D. LUND, M.D., F.A.C.A. Pp. 376, illustrations and tables. Cloth. \$13.50. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1966.

This volume is well written and splendidly illustrated. It is the work of a practicing anesthesiologist, Dr. P. D. Lund, who has personally administered or supervised the administration of peridural anesthetics to an enormous number of patients (in excess of 15,000). Those familiar with the literature will be familiar with his many contributions to clinical investigation in this area.

Every aspect of peridural anesthesia is covered. Somewhat more emphasis is placed on the technical aspects of the procedure than on the physiologic alterations brought about by peridural block. Special emphasis is placed on the modified-pressure technique which has recently come into prominence.

This reviewer would have liked to see more detail of the pharmacology of the drugs. For completeness it might have been desirable to mention some of the recent work on the effects of local anesthetics on nerve conduction, particularly that by Skou, Blaustein, Goldman and Ritchie. This represents one of the few shortcomings in this otherwise complete and highly effective volume.

There are a few printing errors in the text, e.g., "interspinous ligament" and "intraspinous ligament" are used interchangeably. The bibliography is quite extensive and Dr. Lund's review of the work of others is well-balanced and presented fairly.

In the opinion of this reviewer *Peridural Analgesia and Anesthesia* is an extremely useful volume for the anesthesiologist in practice who seeks clear, precise, and detailed answers to his questions.

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Acid-Base Physiology in Medicine. By R. W. WINTERS, K. ENGEL, AND R. B. DELL. Pp. 230, with illustrations. Cloth. The London Co., Cleveland, Ohio. \$3.85. 1967.

This volume is eminently successful in its attempt to present acid-base physiology utilizing the technique of programmed self-instruction. According to the "foreword," medical students and physicians have, for decades, found understanding acid-base physiology very difficult, largely for two reasons: the need for thorough knowledge of basic

physical chemistry, which many individuals lack; and the fragmentary manner in which the subject is usually taught in medical schools.

Programmed instruction attempts "to reproduce a tutorial learning situation within the format of a textbook." Basically, the subject matter is organized and sequenced from very elementary to complex concepts, the latter easily learned because of dependence on knowledge of the easier concepts. Each concept is repeated and reinforced by questions in each paragraph or frame, the correct answers being supplied in the margin. The student almost always answers the question correctly, because the program design reinforces the subject matter. Another important feature is that the student may set his own pace for study.

This particular programmed instruction has been very well organized by the "subject matter" authors and the "program" author. It is divided into ten sections, e.g., "Section I. Elementary Physical Chemistry," and "Section X. Respiratory Alkalosis." The text covers all areas of acid-base physiology of importance to the clinician—whether surgeon, internist, pediatrician or anesthesiologist. For those of us who over the years have periodically reviewed Davenport's *The ABC of Acid-Base Chemistry*, the present volume represents an important advance because of wider breadth of subject matter and use of up-to-date terminology and definitions. One of the authors, R. W. Winters, a contributor to a 1964 "Symposium on Concepts of Acid-Base Measurement"¹ has, in a previous article, summarized present terminology in a concise manner.²

The book contains a number of errors, fortunately noted and corrected with an erratum sheet. Undoubtedly some will find this technique of learning unappealing, but many physicians, including anesthesiologists, should be able to improve their understanding of acid-base disorders considerably by study of the program.

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References

1. Winters, R. W.: Current concepts of acid-base measurement, *Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci.* 138: 211, 1967.
2. Winters, R. W.: Terminology of acid-base disorders, *Ann. Int. Med.* 68: 573, 1965.

New Concepts in Pain and its Clinical Management. Edited by E. LEONG WAY, Ph.D. Pp. 224. \$7.95. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1967.