

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

Edited by MEREL H. HARMEL

Die Störungen des Säure-Basen-Haushaltes [Disturbances of acid-base balance]. Edited by V. FEURSTEIN. (Vol. 35, Anesthesiology and Resuscitation, edited by R. Frey, F. Kern, O. Mayrhofer.) Berlin-Heidelberg-New York, York, Springer-Verlag, 1969. Pp. 149. Illustrations 53. DM 38.00 (paper bound).

The importance of acid-base disturbances has become universally recognized. The technical ease of their detection combined with the simplicity of their early correction constitute the message of this booklet. It consists of a collection of papers first read at the tenth combined meeting of the anesthesia societies of Central Europe, held in Salzburg, Austria, in 1967.

The contributions range over a wide field, but are primarily addressed to practical problems. Examples are: operative and postoperative blood gas changes; tissue acid-base disturbances following local anesthesia with the addition of different pressure substances; the buffer capacities of colloid and crystalloid infusions; apneic oxygenation and Tris buffer; etc. Iatrogenic origins and the need for early correction of metabolic alkalosis are stressed. In summary, while this booklet provides an interesting review of the subject it reflects as much the special interests of different European clinics.

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Anaesthesie und Nierenfunktion [Anesthesia and renal function]. Edited by V. FEURSTEIN. (Vol. 36, Anesthesiology and Resuscitation, edited by R. Frey, F. Kern, O. Mayrhofer.) Berlin-Heidelberg-New York, Springer-Verlag, 1969. Pp. 142. Illustrations 54. DM 36 (paper bound).

The second main theme of the tenth combined meeting of the Anesthesia Societies of Central Europe (Salzburg, Austria, 1967) was the interaction of anesthesia and renal function; the collected papers comprise this volume of "Anesthesiology and Resuscitation." The opening review article, by Dr. Thurau from the Physiological Institute, Munich, summarizes in a lucid way recent developments in physiology and pathophysiology of renal function. The following clinical papers represent a multidisciplinary approach by internists, anesthesiologists, and surgeons to renal disturbances in shock, during anesthesia and surgery, and following heart-lung bypass. The effects of man-

nitol and plasma expanders are discussed. A group of papers deals with the indications and results of different types of dialysis (hemo- and peritoneal, via the stomach) in acute renal failure. Interspersed case reports, illustrations, and tables facilitate the understanding of the clinical situation and the treatment employed.

In short, the booklet summarizes problems and experiences with diagnosis and treatment of post-operative renal failure useful for everyone concerned with its treatment.

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Wasser- und Elektrolyt-Fibel. Diagnostik und Therapie des Flüssigkeitshaushaltes [Elementary textbook to water and electrolytes. Diagnosis and treatment of fluid balance.] By BRUNO TAUNGER. Stuttgart, C. Thieme Verlag, 1969. Second edition. Pp. 161. Illustrations 18, tables 23. DM 16.80 (paper bound).

The term "fibel" defines the scope of this volume. It is commonly used to describe those first reading books which aid the starting student in his struggles to learn the foundations of the written word with its promise of future adventure. Undoubtedly, there is a need for such presentations; this is born out in this case by a second edition after two years. The subject is presented in an unconventional manner aimed mainly at the mediation of practical knowledge. The more formal descriptions of Na, K, water, and acid-base disturbances are followed by the correlation with the symptoms and signs, and finally by an outline for treatment. This construction makes certain repetitions unavoidable; however, skillful reiteration tends to impress the problem and constitutes part of the learning process.

In the last chapter, specific therapeutic situations are discussed, e.g., burns, cerebral edema, intoxications, renal insufficiency. Special attention is given to parenteral feeding and peritoneal dialysis. Selected articles reference each topic and allow the reader to transgress the scope of the book. Finally, three hypothetical case reports illustrate frequently encountered electrolyte deviations and test the proficiency of the reader.

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