
The second edition of this compact, concise book essentially achieves its object to present concepts of mechanical ventilatory support to both student and practitioner. It is well planned, and is divided into two sections: 1) When (indications); What (types of ventilators) and How (clinical applications); and 2) Why (Physiology of spontaneous and mechanical ventilation, humidification and airway). The text of 130 pages has 321 references, which is somewhat excessive for the type of reader for whom this book is designed.

Although the author presents a wide variety of useful information, it was embarrassing for the reviewer to see “Respiratory Distress Syndrome of the Newborn” classified as alveolar capillary block, to find that salt-water drowning caused pulmonary edema and that fresh-water drowning was omitted, and to discover that “shock lung” following trauma was not included. The ventilator circuit diagrams are redundant in a book which is small and directed primarily to the clinician. Concepts of increasing the period of inspiration with a Bird ventilator by decreasing sensitivity are against currently accepted principles; and stumbling upon the shunt equation without explanation of the symbols might prove disconcerting to the reader.

The book’s shortcomings appear to be in its editing; its content does convey basic principles of mechanical artificial ventilation.

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The co-authors and eleven contributors have provided a review that emphasizes immunity rather than immunchemistry or immunopathology. Aside from chapters on antigens, immunoglobulin structure, and subcellular sites of antibody formation, the book presents the biologic aspects of immunologic phenomena (antibody induction and production; immunologic memory; immunologic protection and injury; theories of antibody formation; immunosuppression; and transplantation immunity). The result is a well-organized, integrated textbook with extensive reference lists at the end of each chapter. It should benefit not only the student of immunology but also the professional who needs to “catch up.”

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From time to time books are received which may be of general interest but do not warrant review. Where indicated, the editor may make short comments. The following are representative of such books.


For the nurse and other hospital personnel dealing with patients who have been anesthetized—British style.


Written for assistants and technicians in the health-related professions. Clear and well-done.


A concise, all-inclusive, limited guide to current practice and recent advances.


For the layman and general practitioner.


Useful to the medical student and house officer. Concise.