

of organization to the book. However, the discontinuity of the overall presentation does not lead to easy readability.

The initial sections present didactic essays on normal anatomy and function. Subsequent chapters consist of brief presentations of research from various centers. The discussions deal with controversial questions raised in the preceding chapters.

Several chapters are worthy of special attention. The opening segment by Dr. Normal Staub titled "An Essay on Airway Structure and Function" is well illustrated with light and electron micrographs, and the text is successful in correlating structure and function in health and disease. Other sections on the functional anatomy of the trachea and large airways and the mechanism of bronchoconstriction in allergic asthma are very informative.

This book is not a text or reference work on obstructive airway disease, but is an interesting and diverse accumulation of current knowledge and research activities.

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**The Essentials of Respiratory Therapy.** BY ROBERT M. KACMAREK, STEVEN DIMAS, and CRAIG W. MACK, Chicago, Yearbook Medical Publishers, 1979. Pages: 359. Price: \$17.95.

Three decades ago a hospital orderly, when he could be spared from his duties of setting up orthopedic traction, would cater to a patient's respiratory needs by setting up an oxygen tent. No attempts were made to quantify the amount of oxygen administered or the efficacy of the treatment. Hypoxemia and hypercarbia were clinical judgments, and the discipline of measurement was the province of the researcher rather than the clinician.

Gradually improved methods for increasing the patient's alveolar oxygen tension were developed and, with the increasing complexity of the equipment, the administration of oxygen and airway adjuncts came to require knowledge that was not possessed by orderlies or nurses. The specialty of respiratory therapy grew and expanded to encompass pulmonary gas exchange, including interpretation of blood gases, techniques of intermittent positive pressure breathing, chest physical therapy, and mechanical ventilation.

*The Essentials of Respiratory Therapy* reads as if it were a primer for an anesthesiology residency program, including chapters on basic chemistry, gas physics, airway and cardiac anatomy, neurologic control of ventilation, pulmonary mechanics, blood gas interpretation, pharmacology, and obstructive and restrictive pulmonary disease. Chapters about microbiology, fluidics, chest physiotherapy, aerosol therapy, mechanical ventilation, and analyzers present comparatively new information.

This is not a textbook in traditional paragraphs and chapters. Rather it outlines sparsely, yet in reasonable depth, concise descriptions of all the extensive material that the authors wished to cover. Difficult points are clarified by problems and examples. The derivation of formulas is given, and when there are several ways of approaching a situation, each alternative is carefully explained, for example, in the description of methods for determining cardiac output. A certain level of understanding of respiratory therapy is assumed.

I would recommend this well-produced book not only to respiratory therapists and respiratory therapy trainees, but also to anesthesia residents. It is a comprehensive guide to the relevant material.

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### Books Received

Title & Edition	Author/Editor	Publisher		
		Address, Name, Year	Pages	Price
<b>Anesthesiology: A Manual of Concept and Management</b> Second edition	C. W. Quimby, Jr.	New York Appleton-Century-Crofts 1979	384	\$12.50
<i>Background for the person having his or her first clinical experience in anesthesiology.</i>				
<b>Care of the Trauma Patient</b> Second edition	G. T. Shires	New York McGraw-Hill Book Co. 1979	642	PNS
<i>Includes a chapter on anesthetic considerations by A. H. Giesecke, Jr., and M. T. Jenkins.</i>				
<b>Selected Papers in Respiratory Therapy</b> Second edition	T. J. DeKornfeld	New York Medical Examinations Publishing Co., Inc. 1979	542	\$20.00
<i>A compilation of 52 important papers published 1973-1977.</i>				
<b>Applied Respiratory Physiology,</b> Second edition	J. F. Nunn	Woburn, Mass. Butterworths 1978	524	\$39.95
<i>Explains the respiratory physiology relevant to patient care, particularly in the field of anesthesia, and reviews the studies most relevant to clinical work.</i>				