

BOOK REVIEWS

RESPIRATORY THERAPY – DICTIONARY/REFERENCE GUIDE. J. OWEN KRASOWSKI. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, 1978. Price \$9.85.

I FIND THE BOOK to be slightly inconsistent between the explanation of medical and technical terms. I would expect some of the technical terms to be more clearly defined and explained so as not to be misleading to the student. There seems, on the other hand, to be more definition of medical terms in depth and this background is easily accessible in a medical dictionary. Because of the deficiencies in technical definitions this book is not recommended for respiratory technology students.

L. Brautigam

TRANSCUTANEOUS MEASUREMENT OF OXYGEN. METHOD AND CLINICAL APPLICATION. (Transcutane Sauerstoffmessung. Methodik und klinische Anwendung.) K. STOSSECK. Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation. Vol. 108, 31 figs., 6 tables. VIII, 68 pages. 1977. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer-Verlag. Soft cover DM 32,-; US \$14.80. ISBN 3-540-08481-9.

THIS SMALL VOLUME describes a new method of measuring transcutaneously the partial pressure of oxygen in blood by polarography. The substitution of invasive by non-invasive methods of measurement is a desirable goal, and for this reason alone this monograph merits attention. The author has made a serious attempt to evaluate the method, to delineate its limitations and to define the various technical points to be observed in order to increase its accuracy. The book is interesting and well written, albeit in German and without English summaries.

G.M. Wyant

ETOMIDATE. AN INTRAVENOUS HYPNOTIC AGENT. First Report on Clinical and Experimental Experience. Ed.: A. Doenicke. Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation. Vol. 106, 59 figs., 16 tables. XI, 155 pages. 1977. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer-Verlag. Soft cover DM 36,-; US \$16.60. ISBN 3-540-08485-1.

ETOMIDATE is a new intravenous induction agent. Much of the original work on it has been done by Professor A. Doenicke of the University of Munich in Germany since 1972, and it is therefore fitting that he should be the editor of a monograph devoted to this new anaesthetic. With 18 contributions, this little volume covers many facets of Etomidate from basic pharmacology to

clinical application and observations of its effects on various body functions. It thus presents a good overview of all that is known at this time about the drug. Although the majority of contributors are German, and the rest either Belgian or Dutch, the book is written entirely in English, a fact which greatly enhances its usefulness and which should make it a most valuable reference work for all who are interested in intravenous anaesthesia and for those embarking upon the study or clinical use of Etomidate.

G.M. Wyant

CLINICAL ANAESTHESIOLOGY AND INTENSIVE THERAPY. Volume 14. Solutions for Intravenous Infusion. Technical Problems in their Manufacture and Usage. Ed.: F.W. Ahnefeld, 59 figs., 54 tables, 240 pages, 1977. Soft cover. Berlin-Heidelberg-New York: Springer Verlag. Price \$16.60 US. ISBN 3-540-08484-5.

THIS BOOK is composed of 26 separate articles by a large number of authors. It is essentially divided into three parts, the first of which deals with technical problems in the manufacture and use of intravenous solutions, and the second part with clinical technical problems. A third smaller part discusses the use of microfilters in blood transfusions in four papers. The first part of the book is of relatively little interest to the clinician other than as background information and reference material, while the second and third parts are of more immediate relevance. The book is written entirely in German without English summaries, a fact which limits its general usefulness for Canadian readers.

G.M. Wyant

MEDICAL GASES: THEIR PROPERTIES AND USES. William J. Grant. 25 figs., 51 tables, 187 pages, 1978. HM & M Publishers, Ltd. Aylesbury, U.K. Soft cover. ISBN 0-85602-056-7.

THE PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY of the tools which he handles daily remain an enigma to many anaesthetists. He finds most texts on physics hard to understand and somewhat off the beaten track for the clinician. This little book fills a void by conveying basic information on medical gases in simple and readable language with useful tables on the physical properties of each gas for reference purposes. It will also be found useful by those who desire a quick review of the subject while preparing themselves for examinations.

G.M. Wyant