

**Resuscitation of the Newborn Infant. Principles and Practice.** EDITED BY HAROLD ABRAMSON, M.D., Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, New York Medical College, New York, N. Y. 24 contributors. Cloth. \$10.00. Pp. 274, with 36 figures. C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, Mo., 1960.

This book covers the comprehensive and complexing problem of resuscitation of the newborn infant. The collective endeavors of many specialists in both clinical and laboratory fields appear in this volume. It presents to the practitioner the respiratory difficulties and related problems of newborn infants. These problems are as old as mankind, yet they have not been satisfactorily solved. The opinions and recommendations advanced in this book do not represent the final work, since changes must of necessity ensue in the approach of the clinician to each infant requiring resuscitation.

Resuscitation of the newborn is not discussed in this book merely in terms of gases and drugs and the application of physical and mechanical methods for respiration in the newborn infant. The concept advanced is total and encompasses the investigation, early recognition and appraisal of all influences operating before conception, during pregnancy, during the birth and immediate post-delivery. All of these factors may possibly contribute to perinatal distress requiring early institution of preventive measures. All of these problems constitute the basic principles of resuscitation in the newborn, and must be considered if resuscitation is to reduce needless fetal and neonatal deaths.

The book is excellently written and organized. The index is excellent; the illustrations, adequate. The printing, paper and binding are far above average. This is a book that every obstetrician, general practitioner, pediatrician and anesthesiologist should have, and he should practice the basic principles so adequately covered.

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**Surgical Diseases of the Chest.** EDITED BY BRIAN BLADES, M.D., Professor of Surgery, The George Washington School of Medicine, Washington, D. C.; Chief Surgeon,

The George Washington University Hospital, Washington, D. C. Cloth. \$22.00. Pp. 580, with 267 illustrations. C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, Mo., 1961.

This text should more properly be titled "Diseases of the Chest Amenable to Surgery." The 16 chapters, over 550 pages of text, summarizes in a very striking fashion the rapid advances and accomplishments of the past three or four decades in thoracic surgery.

As is noted by Dr. Blades in the preface, "This book is written not only for surgeons, but also for medical students and medical practitioners who are interested in what can be accomplished in various diseases by thoracic surgery—although operative techniques will not be entirely neglected, only the essential technical principles for reasonably standardized operations will be included."

The first chapter "Basic Physiology in Thoracic Surgery" is a brief yet excellent anatomical, biochemical, physiological and medical summarization of both the lungs and the heart. It includes descriptions of the most pertinent pulmonary function tests, *i.e.*, timed vital capacity, maximum breathing capacity, ventilatory reserve, etc., as well as anatomical descriptions of each heart valve, the coronary arteries, the specialized physiological properties of the heart, and details of the greater and lesser circulation. Fluid and electrolyte balance, acidosis and alkalosis are reviewed also. The bibliography for this chapter of more than 200 selected references, exemplifies one of the most useful features of this text for those not entirely oriented in the field of thoracic surgery.

Eighteen authors have contributed to this work. In general, each was selected on the basis of two qualifications: (1) original and important contributions in the area of selection, and (2) wide clinical experience. Individual style of writing was allowed. This not only increases interest in the method of presentation, but also leads to some overlapping so that several viewpoints are presented in various areas.

The general make-up of the book is good with large, easily read type. It is rather profusely illustrated with 267 figures. Many of these are roentgenographic reproductions,