**Applied Physiology of Respiratory Care.**


This book covers all aspects of Respiratory Care encountered in Clinical Practice. Sections are devoted to the general management of respiratory failure, the Respiratory Consequences of Surgical Problems, Trauma, Respiratory Management of other organ failure, the effects of age, obesity and environment on respiratory function. Finally there is a section on the special problems of poisoning, near drowning, hypothermia, massive transfusions, D.I.C. and oxygenation techniques.

The whole text is authoritative, bringing the clinical and investigative experience of one of the best if not the best, respiratory units in the world to bear on clinical problems. Facts, figures and survival rates are the basis for opinions expressed. There are over 2,000 references nominated in the text and conveniently collected towards the end of the book. The style is clear, concise and enjoyable to read; allowing the book to be used as a reference on a certain topic or be read from cover to cover. The presentation is attractive and plentifully illustrated.

The book is highly recommended for candidates for Primary and Final Fellowship as well as those participating in Intensive Care.

Owen F. James.

**Safety in the Operating Theatre.**


This book is in effect the proceeding of the Seminar on "Safety in the Operating Theatre" sponsored by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and its Faculty of Anaesthetists held in Melbourne—September 30th and October 1st, 1971. The publication date is 1976. The delay in publication will probably diminish the value of the book.

At the Seminar prepublication of the submissions to the Seminar were available so that a large fraction of the material has already been published in limited numbers to those who attended.

Owen F. James.

The chapters include Anaesthetic Equipment, Asepsis, Drugs and Infusions, Electrical Equipment (Fires and Explosions), Patient Handling, Theatre Design, Staffing and Responsibility. The system on numbering paragraphs which is very helpful for cross references was used in the seminar book but has been omitted from the report.

It is of interest to read the recommendations six years after they were made and to observe how many have been implemented.

I think that it is valuable to have the material of the report in one book where it is easily available to registrars in surgery and anaesthetics. It should be compulsory reading for Fellowship candidates.

M. Bookallil.

**Critical Care Medicine—Current Principles and Practices.**


This small book is a multi-author publication dealing with:

(a) The Editor's viewpoint on the practice of multi-disciplinary critical care medicine.
(b) Guidelines for the organization of critical care units by the Committee on Guidelines of the Society of Critical Care Medicine.
(c) Nineteen chapters dealing mainly with specific patient management problems commonly met with in Intensive Care Units.

These last mentioned nineteen chapters are mostly updated versions of papers (by well known authors) previously published in J.A.M.A. from 1968 onwards. The topics include initial management of the severely injured patient and a variety of individual, multiple organ and system failure problems. Considerable space has been devoted to the management of various forms of shock and a variety of cardiovascular emergencies. The material is essentially presented in a practical fashion. Diagrams are simple and easily understood.

As most topics are briefly dealt with the reader will readily notice omissions which he may consider important—such as thrombolytic therapy in the management of massive pulmonary embolism and continuous infusion of low dose insulin in diabetic keto-acidosis. Thus, where several possible approaches to management of a problem exist, usually only the