

Book notice

Pulmonary Function Testing Guidelines and Controversies. JL Clausen (ed). (Pp 368; \$39.95.) Academic Press, 1982.

This is essentially a practical manual covering the detailed methods of pulmonary function testing with recommended normal reference data. Particularly welcome are the emphasis on quality control and trouble shooting and honest discussion of areas of uncertainty and controversy. The style is necessarily didactic, but largely based on common sense. Although written primarily for an American audience, most of the information and opinions travel well and the references are comprehensive and up to date. The criterion for inclusion of a test is its popularity in various laboratories rather than a critical appraisal of its clinical role, and a further volume is promised on the more difficult and controversial area of clinical interpretation and usefulness. Unconventional inclusions such as radiographic estimation of lung volume and measurements in the intensive care unit are offset by surprising omissions, including peak flow, Kco, and mixed venous carbon dioxide tension as measured by rebreathing; and the important area of radioisotope studies is not covered. Despite these deficiencies, physicians and senior technicians concerned with clinical lung function testing will find much of interest and value in this book and they will be reassured to discover that their everyday practical problems are shared by others.

Notice

Annual meeting of the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology

The annual meeting of the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology 1984 will be held in Brussels on 16–19 May. The themes will be the immunological aspects of asthma, occupational allergy, and immunomodulation, with a postgraduate course on the treatment of allergic diseases. Further information from Professor R Pauwels, Department of Respiratory Diseases, De Pintelaan 185, B 9000 Ghent, Belgium.

Corrections

Flow-volume curves and sleep-disordered breathing

We regret the following errors in the paper by Dr EF Haponik and others (August 1983, pp 609–15): On p 609, col 2, para 2, lines 10 and 14; and p 610, col 1, para 3, line 6, “Montana” should be “Massachusetts.” In table 2, 2nd and 3rd column headings, “SE” should be “SD.”

Respiratory muscle and pulmonary function in polymyositis and other proximal myopathies

We regret the following errors in the paper by Dr NMT Braun and others (August 1983, pp 616–23): On p 617, col 1, para 2, line 3, “Montana” should be “Massachusetts.” In table 4, 2nd line of heading, “observations” should be “subjects.”