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Book notices

Measurement in Clinical Respiratory Physiology. Gabriel Laszlo and Michael F Sudlow. (Pp 337; \$60.) Academic Press. 1983.

This is designed to be used as a practical handbook, by doctors and technicians employed in a respiratory function laboratory. To achieve their objective the editors have invited contributions from practising clinical physiologists. Many chapters are enhanced by accurate descriptions of equipment and techniques, which will facilitate better clinical measurement in patients, often overawed by the plethora of equipment in modern laboratories. The key references and a well thought out index are invaluable. For a laboratory handbook the chapters written by technical personnel are particularly helpful. The theoretical physiology is often a repetition of that available elsewhere. The book falls into two parts discussing, firstly, instrumentation and, secondly, the assembly of equipment for specific purposes. No attempt has been made to describe all the available lung function tests. The editors offer a review of standard techniques together with those in areas of growing importance—for example, inductive plethysmography, non-invasive blood gas monitoring, assessment of respiratory muscle power, and sleep studies. Silverman's chapter on respiratory function testing in infancy and childhood is a welcome inclusion. This book is original and a useful addition to the library of any respiratory physiology department.—RMC

Cancer of the Esophagus in 1984. R Giuli. (Pp 425; \$40.) Organisation for Statistical Studies of Diseases of the Oesophagus. 1984.

This book is an account of the first congress of the International Organisation for Statistical Studies of Diseases of the Oesophagus (OESO). Its editor, Robert Giuli, founded OESO in 1979 with the purpose of accumulating information relating to the understanding, diagnosis, and management of carcinoma of the oesophagus. Specialists from many disciplines have come together from 23 different participating countries to supply data, have it put on computer, and then have it statistically analysed. At the back of the book are 24 pages of such data and conclusions that demonstrate the potential value of this type of study. Unlike those from personal series the data are free from bias and this is probably the single most important feature of this study. The reader is free to form his own conclusions. The main body of the book is devoted to the proceedings of the conference, which was in itself unique. After analysis of the data OESO met to formulate a series of questions, on which experts from all over the world, most of whom were not members of OESO, were invited to give their opinion. It provides a most interesting collection of attitudes of some highly respected workers in the area of oesophageal disease. This book will be enjoyed by a limited number of people with a major interest in oesophageal disease, but cannot be recommended as vital reading for a postgraduate student. It would, however, be a worthwhile addition to any medical library as the vast amount of data, conclusions, and opinions make it a unique reference volume on its subject.—KMP