

BOOK REVIEW

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE BY G.H. BEST AND
N.B. TAYLOR WITH 28 CONTRIBUTORS UNDER THE EDITORSHIP OF N.B. TAYLOR

7TH EDITION. THE WILLIAMS AND WILKINS COMPANY.

BALTIMORE, 1961, PP XVI PLUS 1554, PRICE \$ 16.00

This is the 7th Edition of the very well known classical text book of applied physiology. The names of Best and Taylor have been, in the minds of the medical students of several generations, associated with this book which has been recommended as a standard work in human physiology.

The policy of the authors pursued till the 6th edition to take over the entire work of revising the text by themselves alone has been changed in this 7th edition. There is no doubt that the volume of scientific material that has been coming out from the various laboratories and research and teaching institutions is such that it becomes almost impossible for one or two persons to cover all or even the most important parts of this and hence it is but reasonable that collaboration by workers in different fields becomes useful in keeping books like this, uptodate. The authors have, therefore, in this edition sought contributions from 28 different workers, and have revised the book rather drastically in some parts, without, however, altering its general plan. One would, however, like to submit that the 7th edition of the book has become such as to make one rather hesitant in recommending it for undergraduate students. Chapters on circulation, respiration and excretion attract attention in particular since there is major departure here from the previous edition. The material included in these sections is uptodate but the presentation of some parts is such as to prove rather tough for the beginner. Some of the topics (e.g. systemic and pulmonary circulation, regulation of pressure and flow of blood, tubular reabsorption and excretion etc.) are tackled after the fashion of a monograph. This approach while materially raises the general standard of the book and extends its scope it makes it less suitable for junior preclinical and clinical students. On the whole it has been greatly modernised and will be of greater use to the postgraduate students in physiology and clinical medicine. Illustrations and tabular data which were given in the previous edition in abundance are further increased and elaborated in the present one.

Chapters like regulation of circulation under states of stress, lung volumes, control of breathing, urine formation etc. are worthy of perusal by all senior students and teachers of physiology and internal medicine.