into the text itself makes it an undesirable book for the student who is looking for an introductory text. On the other hand, it serves a purpose by being a quick reference text for those who are seeking information about the technical aspects of mechanical ventilation.

EDWARD D. SIVAK, M.D.
Intensive Care Unit
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Ventilators: Theory and Clinical Application, by Yvon G. Dupuis, St. Louis, CV Mosby, 1986, 594 pp, price not given.

This text is intended to be a technical description of various mechanical ventilators which are currently marketed in English-speaking countries, rather than a description of ventilators vis-à-vis patients who have respiratory failure. Unfortunately, there is no mention of ventilators which are designed for home care.

The book can be recommended for individuals who have had some exposure to mechanical ventilation and desire more technical and mechanical understanding. It should also serve as a good review for individuals with a biomedical background who seek more information about differences in mechanical ventilators. The beginning student will be overwhelmed by the technical material.

EDWARD D. SIVAK, M.D.
Intensive Care Unit
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Ventilation/Blood Flow and Gas Exchange, by John B. West, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 120 pp, price not given.

The fourth edition of West's monograph continues to be a high-quality introduction to the basic physiologic principles by which gas exchange takes place in the lungs. The reference list has been expanded to include the most recent studies.

The first five chapters of the text follow the same format as in previous editions. However, the sixth chapter is new. It contains information about the various pathophysiologic processes which are existent in the common disorders of obstructive lung disease, interstitial lung disease, pulmonary embolism, acute respiratory failure, and myocardial infarction.

Ventilation/Blood Flow and Gas Exchange continues to be essential reading for the beginning student of pulmonary physiology and a quick source of review for the experienced clinician.

EDWARD D. SIVAK, M.D.
Intensive Care Unit
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Female Hirsutism: An Enigma. Causes and Treatment of Excess Hair, by Linda C. Edsell, St. Louis, Pulsar Publishing, 1984, 144 pp, price not given.

The treatment of female hirsutism, as presented by this book, is unusually well presented. The beginning chapters dealing with cells and skin are clear and easily understood, but may be extremely elementary for the physician. Descriptions of hair structure in subsequent sections may be informative for both lay person and physician other than a dermatologist. Discussions of the endocrine system and hirsutism are also well done. However, this reviewer disagrees with the author's differentiation between hypertrichosis and hirsutism. Hirsutism in women can be described as increased body hair in sites where hair appears only on men, whereas hypertrichosis is a localized growth of terminal hair, such as in a nevus. Also, idiopathic hirsutism is defined as an increased sensitivity of the hair follicle; however, the new immunoassays of the androgenic hormone have shown that it frequently results from excess androgens or androgen metabolites. The last chapter, entitled "Electrologists," is the most poorly presented section in the book. It comes across strictly as a pitch for electrolysis. It is also redundant and does not describe the specific training by the electrologist and the control over the procedure necessary to safeguard the patient.

WILMA F. BERGFELD, M.D.
Department of Dermatology
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Books received

A Companion to Medical Studies: Anatomy, Biochemistry and Physiology, ed by J. M. Forrester, R. Passmore, J. S. Robson, D. K. Apps, J. F. Lamb, J. H. Phillips, and R. J. Scothorne, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 1218 pages.

Lecture Notes on Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat, 6th ed, by P. D. Bull, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 194 pages.

Medical Abbreviations: 4200 Conveniences at the Expense of Communications and Safety, 3d ed, by Neil M. Davis, Huntingdon Valley, Pa., Neil M. Davis Associates, 1987, 120 pages.

The Medicare System of Prospective Payment: Implications for Medical Education and Practice, ed by Mohan L. Garg and Barbara M. Barzansky, New York, Praeger, 1986, 230 pages.

Practice Management for Physicians, by Donald L. Donohugh, Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1986, 352 pages.