G. Thews: Nomogramme zum Säure-Basen-Status des Blutes und zum Atemgas-transport (Nomograms for Blood Acid-Base Status and Respiratory Gas Transport). Springer, Berlin 1971. This short monograph includes a collection of 44 nomograms which describe the functional relationship between the standard parameters of acid-base status and respiratory gas transport for human blood. The first part displays alignment nomograms of acid-base parameters at various levels of hemoglobin saturation with oxygen and ingenious nomograms for therapeutic correction of acid-base disorders. The second part shows alignment nomograms for the acid-base status inside the erythrocyte. The third part summarizes through alignment and cartesian nomograms the interdependence of O₂ and CO₂ tension, O₂ saturation and pH of human blood under normothermic and hypothermic conditions. The fourth part includes alignment and cartesian nomograms for the functional parameters of preliminary gas exchange under conditions of normoxic breathing, inspiratory hypoxia and light exercise. The last part concentrates on the special relationship between maternal and fetal blood gas parameters at the moment of birth. The interest of this volume is that the information has seldom been collected in such a concise form, and with a primary focus on the problems faced by the anesthesiologist, internist and surgeon in the clinical management of patients with acid-base disorders. The explanations and instructions are short and to the point, and even the reader unfamiliar with the German language should find this a useful reference.

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P. E. Baldry: The Battle against Heart Disease. Cambridge University Press, London. This fascinating book is ostensibly written for the layman who wants to understand the background of current achievements in cardiology. It describes in historical sequence the progress in understanding the function of the heart and the lungs, the origin of diagnostic methods, and the rationale for therapeutic measures, medical and surgical. Not only is the text eminently readable for anyone interested in the evolution of human knowledge, it is of interest to the medical student and to the physician who wants to place in perspective the development of diagnostic equipment and procedures, the discovery of cardiac drugs, and current concepts of the pathogeny of cardiovascular disease. It will not replace major treatises of medical history, but provides a concise and interesting account of over two thousand years of scientific adventure.

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