

Boekbesprekings : Book Reviews

ENDOCRINOLOGY OF PREGNANCY

Endocrinology of Pregnancy. Ed. by F. Fuchs, M.D., F.A.C.O.G. and A. Klopper, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.O.G. Pp. x + 359. \$12.50. New York: Harper & Row. 1970.

This book fills the need for both academic and practising obstetricians. It will, however, be of far more value to the former and in particular those interested in the endocrinological field as related to obstetricians.

From the first chapter which is a most necessary introduction into the dynamics of hormone production and metabolism to the last which is concerned with endocrine factors in abortion and premature labour, there is something of interest for all dealing daily with pregnant women. A comprehensive review of all hormones directly involved in pregnancy and the initiation of labour, including the experimental and investigative aspects, and in most instances the practical applications is included. One list of references runs into 19 pages! Only calcitonin and placental follicle stimulating hormone are not mentioned.

This is a book which is essential for all reference libraries and which will be referred to from time to time by practising obstetricians.

B.B.

HOËDRUK SUURSTOFTERAPIE

Hyperbaric Oxygen and its Clinical Value. Met nadruk op biochemiese en kardiiovaskulêre aspekte. Deur N. G. Meijne, M.D. Pp. xx + 261. Geïllustreerd. \$16.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1970.

Gedurende die sestigerjare was daar 'n lewendige belangstelling in die gebruik van suurstof onder hoë druk (drie atmosfere) vir 'n groot verskeidenheid van toestande. Mettertyd het die werklike waarde daarvan meer duidelik begin word en is die aanvaarde gebruike daarvoor nou in die behandeling van gasgangreen, koolstofmonoksiedvergiftiging en as 'n byvoegsel tot die bestraling van sekere kwaadaardige letsels.

Dr. Meijne se boek gee 'n volledige oorsig van die historiese agtergrond, die herlewing van die belangstelling in hoëdruk terapie en gaan dan voort om die fisiese, biochemiese en toksikologiese aspekte van die inaseming van suurstof onder hierdie omstandighede te bespreek. 'n Afdeling word ook gewy aan 'n bespreking van die probleme van borreliësie en die narkose-uitwerking van hoë stikstofsannings in die liggaam. Die laaste gedeelte van die boek word gewy aan 'n oorweging van die verskillende kliniese toepassings met die voorafgaande eksperimentele werk wat daartoe gelei het.

Die boek is 'n waardevolle verwysingsbron vir die persoon wat 'n besondere belangstelling in hierdie vak het. Van algemene belang egter is die hoofstukke oor die gebruik van suurstof onder hoë druk in die behandeling van gasgangreen.

J.J.W.v.Z.

ACTIVE/PASSIVE

Active/Passive. The crucial psychological dimensions. By E. Fried, Ph.D. Pp. ix + 222. \$7.95. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1970.

This is yet another book which professedly explains the most complex relationships between man and woman by a few simple principles. It is not a scientific work. Every page contains assertions about persons for which very little, or no, evidence is given. Often a single highly abbreviated case history is offered to support a point. In addition, the author does not distinguish where she has asserted a value and where she is stating a fact. For example, her view that passivity in females is a threat to a full life is as much a value judgement as the belief in many cultures that females should be passive. Like so many psychological books written by clinicians of an analytic persuasion, this fails to distinguish opinion and values from hard fact.

Having said this, there are many things in the book which this reviewer finds satisfying and pleasing, but mostly in a moral and not a scientific sense.

R.C.A.