

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKRESENSIES

### OBSTETRICS

*A Manual of Practical Obstetrics.* Third Edition. By O'Donel Browne, edited and largely re-written by J. G. Gallagher. Pp. viii + 265 + 203 illustrations. 37s. 6d. net. Bristol: John Wright and Sons Ltd. 1956.

*Contents:* Part I. Pregnancy and its Complications. I. Pregnancy. II. Anatomy of the Birth Canal. III. Development of the Foetus and Changes in the Maternal System. IV. Antenatal Care. V. Complications of Pregnancy. Pseudocyesis. Signs of Parity. Part II. Normal Labour and Puerperium. VI. Normal Full-term Pregnancy. Preparations for Labour. Methods of Examination. VII. Course and Management of Normal Labour. VIII. Stimulants, Anaesthetics, and Analgesics in Labour. IX. The Normal Puerperium. Part III. Abnormalities in Labour with Natural Presentations. X. Abnormalities of the Third Stage.

XI. Occipito-posterior Positions. XII. Complications due to Uterine Abnormalities. XIII. The Forceps. XIV. Various Maternal and Foetal Complications. XV. Breech Presentation. XVI. Other Complications of Labour. Part IV. Haemorrhages of Pregnancy. XVII. Abortion. Molar and Tubal Pregnancy. XVIII. Miscarriage. XIX. Premature Labour. Partus Serotinus and Chorion-epithelioma. XX. Ante-partum Haemorrhage. Part V. Toxaemias of Pregnancy. XXI. Eclampsia or Pre-eclampsia. Hypertemesis Gravidarum. Acute Yellow Atrophy of the Liver. XXII. Eclampsia. Part VI. Complications of Labour with Unnatural Presentations, and Abnormalities of Uterine Action. XXIII. Face, Brow, and Anterior and Posterior Fontanelle Presentations. Asynclitism. XXIV. Transverse, Oblique and Compound Presentations. XXV. Rupture of the Uterus. Secondary Uterine Inertia. XXVI. Prolapse and Presentation of the Cord. XXVII. Foetal Birth Injuries. Part VII. Abnormalities of the Puerperium. XXVIII. Puerperal Pyrexia. XXIX. Puerperal Sepsis. XXX. Pulmonary Embolism. Insanity during Pregnancy. Part VIII. Contracted Pelvis. XXXI. The Normal Female Pelvis. XXXII. Pelvimetry. Part IX. Induction of Labour. XXXIII. Methods, Indications, and Technique of Induction. Part X. Obstetrical Operations. XXXIV. Version. XXXV. Pubiotomy and Symphysiotomy. XXXVI. Caesarean Section. XXXVII. Destructive Operations on the Foetus. Index.

The new edition of this Irish text-book has been prepared by Dr. J. G. Gallagher and reflects mainly the teaching at the National Maternity Hospital in Dublin. As the title indicates, the theme is essentially practical.

On the whole this is a sound text-book and one which should appeal to the undergraduate. There are however a few criticisms to be made. In discussing the conditions to be satisfied before applying forceps the author omits to say that the head in the pelvis should occupy a position favourable for delivery and that there should be a reasonable prospect of safe delivery. As an indication for forceps delivery most of us would regard  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours in the second stage, even in a primigravida, as being rather too long a time to wait before interfering. One must strongly disagree with the statement that usually no anaesthetic is necessary in emptying the uterus in a case of incomplete abortion. As one may expect from a National Maternity Hospital text-book, a rather prominent place has been given to symphysiotomy, an operation which has very little appeal outside Dublin. The reviewer does not agree that 140 should be regarded as the upper limit of a normal foetal heart-rate—160 would be more acceptable.

The book is up to date, short and to the point, features which should find favour with the student who, however, should remember that some of the Dublin views expressed may not find general approval. The price of the book is somewhat high.

E.M.S.

#### NEUROSES

*The Neuroses in Clinical Practice.* By Henry P. Laughlin, M.D. Pp. xlii + 802. \$12.50. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1956.

*Contents:* 1. The Nature and Origins of Anxiety. 2. The Anxiety Reactions. The Acute Anxiety Attack or Anxiety Panic, the Anxiety-Tension State, and Anxiety Neurosis. 3. Intrapsychic Mechanisms of Defense. 4. The Phobic Reactions. I. Fear and Its Avoidance. 5. The Phobic Reactions. II. The Phobias. 6. The Illusory Gains of Emotional Illness. 7. The Conversion Reactions. Somatic Conversion or Conversion Hysteria, and Physiologic Conversion. 8. The Dissociative Reactions. 9. Depression. 10. The Fatigue Reaction. Emotional Fatigue, The Fatigue State, and Neurasthenia. 11. Overconcern with Health. Hypochondriasis, Somatic and/or Physiologic Preoccupation. 12. The Obsessive-Compulsive Reactions. Part I. The Obsessive Character Defenses, The Obsessive Personality, and the Obsessive Type of Character Neurosis. 13. The Obsessive-Compulsive Reactions. Part II. The Obsessive-Compulsive Neuroses. 14. The Neuroses Following Trauma. Appendix: A Brief Outline Classification of Emotional and Mental Illness. A Glossary of Psychiatric Concepts and Terms. Index.

In spite of the fact that a vast amount has been written on the neuroses, it is extremely difficult to lay one's hands on a book from which one can gain an adequate understanding of these psychological disorders. Commonly, either the presentation of the subject is so over-simplified as to make it hopelessly uninformative or, at the other extreme, one finds oneself floundering confusedly in a morass of psycho-analytical jargon. The author of the book under review has made a welcome compromise by producing a highly informative and at the same time readable treatise on the neuroses.

The book opens with the postulate that all psychogenic symptoms may be regarded as manifestations of, or responses to anxiety. This is followed by a description of the numerous unconscious mental mechanisms which are used to combat anxiety. The various types of neurotic reaction are then considered in turn, with the emphasis on the psychodynamics underlying the symptomatology. The reader's interest is held throughout as he follows the neurotic's pathetic battle against the constant threat of the de-repression—a most expressive term—of intolerable emotional conflicts. Numerous explanatory case-histories constitute a valuable contribution to the text.

Laughlin's approach to the neuroses is essentially a dynamic one and it is therefore not surprising to find that he treats his patients psychotherapeutically, and that he is sceptical of the value of drugs, shock therapies and hypnosis in the treatment of these cases.

This book is highly recommended to those who seek a better understanding of their neurotic patients and to those whose task it is to treat these unfortunate individuals.

H.C.