

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS : BOEKRESENSIES

### OPERATIVE OBSTETRICS

*Munro Kerr's Operative Obstetrics.* 6th Edition. By J. Chassar Moir, Hon. LL.D. (Queen's University, Ontario) M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. (Ed.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. x + 1008. 402 Illustrations 4 colour plates and a frontispiece portrait. 105s. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1956.

J. Chassar Moir is to be congratulated on the 6th edition of *Operative Obstetrics*. He has brought the book up to date without altering its character and the discursive style of writing of the

earlier editions has been retained. The type is excellent, many new illustrations have been added and the text, enlivened by case histories from the author's own experience, is a pleasure to read.

The subject matter covers the difficulties that may be encountered by anyone practising active obstetrics. The approach to, and the best method of resolving these difficulties, are discussed with reference to the author's experience and that of other workers. The generous inclusion of references throughout the text is invaluable.

The book is entirely up to date; most noticeable is the increased scope of Caesarean section. Many of the older manoeuvres have

been discarded but it is interesting to note that the metremynter, or Vorhee's bag, still has a place. The writer is careful to discriminate between those manoeuvres which the operator may be forced to carry out in an emergency and those which are the treatment of choice in a fully equipped hospital.

D.M.

### SKULL FRACTURES

*Injuries of the Bones of the Head.* An Atlas of Clinical and X-Ray Diagnosis. By J. Vondra, M.D. and R. Bláha, M.D. Pp. 304. 170 Illustrations. 40s. net. London: Constable and Company Ltd. 1958.

The authors introduce this book as an attempt to present to the general practitioner the signs of injury to the bones of the skull. The book is described as an atlas of clinical and X-ray diagnosis. In the latter section, consisting of illustrations, the fractures are well demonstrated and described, the important points made being the occasional necessity for tangential and tomographic films for detection of some fractures.

The first section, describing the clinical aspects, unfortunately makes difficult reading—the translation, the use of German and

Latin terms and the not infrequent spelling errors, being mainly responsible. An attempt is made to correlate the clinical and radiological findings but the authors realize the difficulties of this and conclude that the doctor must carefully and minutely study the history, the mechanism of injury, the clinical signs and the radiological evidence before he chooses the mode of treatment.

One would be prepared to accept this book as a small atlas of radiologically demonstrated fractures of the bones of the skull, but not for its clinical value.

A.G.

### FORENSIC MEDICINE

*Forensic Medicine.* 3rd Edition. By Keith Simpson, M.D. (Lond.). Pp. viii + 352. 138 Figures. 30s. net. London: Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 1958.

This book is for medical students. It is concise, interesting and easy to read, but the views expressed on problems such as homosexuality are somewhat questionable. The book contains a great deal of useful information, but the legal information concerns the English law, and not the South African. Its use for South African students and practitioners is, on this account, limited.

A.S.