

## BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

### MODERN TRENDS IN OBSTETRICS

*Modern Trends in Obstetrics*, 3. Ed. by R. J. Kellar, M.B.E., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.O.G. Pp. vii+238. Illustrated. R6.20. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1963.

The editor has cleverly selected a range of topical subjects reviewed by well-known authorities, reflecting many interesting tendencies in current obstetric thought and practice.

Some of the chapters are surprisingly superficial and not without personal bias; others, however, are excellent. Perhaps one expected too much! Nevertheless, it deserves to be read by all with a special interest in obstetrics. One looks forward to the arrival of its gynaecological sister which is to be published soon.

J.J. de W.

### HUMAN REPRODUCTION

*Outline of Human Reproduction*. By I. MacGillivray, M.D., F.R.C.O.G. Pp. vii+100. R1.00. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1963.

This little book sets out to give an introduction to obstetrics and gynaecology in the space of less than a hundred pages. It is intended for student nurses and medical students as a grounding in the theory and terminology of the subject, before commencing their clinical work. It is a pity that, in such a condensed version, where only the headlines would be expected, some of the statements in detail are of questionable accuracy, e.g. 'intramuscular injections of ergometrine with hyaluronidase or syntocinon act as quickly as the intravenous injection of ergometrine alone'. Also, the attempt to simplify results sometimes in rather ludicrous comparisons, such as likening the anatomy of the female pelvis to 'a rather dumpy

woman with a long skirt sitting on a platform with two rugby balls under her arms'. On the whole, however, the booklet can be recommended for the purpose for which it was written.

R.P.D.

### CANCER OF THE UTERUS

*Cancer of the Uterus*. 2nd. ed. By C. Sirtori, M.D. and E. Morano, M.D. Pp. xxiv+383. Illustrated. \$22.50. Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1963.

This work, by two Italian masters, has been translated into English and certainly is well worth study by all gynaecologists, pathologists and radiologists and by all who are interested in the problem of cancer.

It is a sound principle to translate good books into English as they may then be studied by a vast number of doctors who have become used to the British and American approaches. The 'continental' attack on the problem is refreshing and is in greater detail.

The authors give a brief description of the methods employed in detecting uterine cancer. This is followed by a description of the appearances of the normal and pathological ectocervix, together with histochemical and histophysical studies and hormonal investigations. This pattern is repeated for the endocervix and endometrium. The closing chapters give excellent accounts of electron microscopic studies.

In each chapter the relevant details of staining technique as well as interpretation are given.

Those who wish to remain or to become completely up-to-date in their subjects would be well advised to study this book, which is well illustrated and pleasant to read.

J.T.L.