

**HYPOFIBRINOGENAEMIA IN ABRUPTIO PLACENTAE**

*The Mechanism of Hypofibrinogenemia in Premature Separation of the Normally Implanted Placenta.* By P. A. Nilsen, M.D. Pp. 96. Illustrated. R3.75. Oslo: Norwegian University Press. 1963. Obtainable from P. B. Mayer, Medical Bookseller, Cape Town.

This monograph from the University Hospital, Oslo, presents evidence that the hypofibrinogenemia which so commonly accompanies abruptio placentae, can be simply accounted for by the amount of fibrin in the retroplacental clot. The evidence is based on experimental work on 10 normal control patients, and 46 with abruptio placentae, as well as a few cases of abruptio artificially produced in rabbits by means of clamping the inferior vena cava. The calculations to support the author's main thesis are based on some pretty wide generalizations as to the total amount of fibrinogen in the circulation, and because of this his conclusions are not entirely convincing.

The author found no evidence of increased fibrinolysis in his cases of abruptio placentae. He also adduces arguments against the theory of defibrination consequent upon intravascular clotting as the mechanism in the production of hypofibrinogenemia in these cases. R.P.D.

**OBSTETRICAL FORCEPS**

*Forceps Deliveries.* 2nd ed. By E. H. Dennen, M.D. Pp. 240. Illustrated. R5.20. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Company; and Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. 1964.

In this short, well-illustrated book the author has described the indications, application and advantages of the major types of obstetrical forceps in current use. The initial chapters on the basic principles of forceps application and traction are particularly well written and would benefit anyone about to embark on practical obstetrics. The more experienced obstetrician will find the subsequent chapters on rotational forceps and other specialized instruments most interesting.

Sections dealing in detail with obsolete procedures, such as the Scanzoni and its related manoeuvres, could possibly be replaced by a chapter on the anatomy and physiology of labour, since these fundamentals have such an intimate bearing on each and every forceps delivery.

With the increasing popularity of the vacuum extractor, this well-written and informative book serves to remind one of the art and many advantages of the obstetrical forceps. M.G.S.

**OBSTETRICS**

*Obstetrics.* Concise Medical Textbooks series. By J. M. Holmes, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.O.G. Pp. viii + 256. Illustrated. R1.50. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox Ltd. 1964.

This short textbook on obstetrics represents the 'new look' in those old standby's of the last minute cram—the *Students Aids* series. Although obviously not intended to replace the larger and more detailed works, this book forms an amazingly complete, up-to-date and readable account of the subject, and can be heartily recommended to all undergraduates, whether they be starting obstetrics for the first time, or revising it for the M.B., Ch.B. examinations. J.H.P.W.

**COLPOPHOTOGRAPHIC STUDY OF CERVIX**

*The Vascular Patterns of the Uterine Cervix.* A colposcopic study, with special reference to precancerous lesions and cancer. By O. Koller, M.D. Pp. 158. Illustrated. R5.05. Oslo: Norwegian University Press. 1963. Obtainable from P. B. Mayer, Medical Bookseller, Cape Town.

This monograph from the Norwegian Radium Hospital describes the angio-architecture of the cervix as studied by means of colposcopy. The author's series includes over a hundred cases of carcinoma of the cervix, 10 with adenocarcinoma, and 2 cases of sarcoma of the cervix. Although the vascular pattern alone is not absolutely diagnostic, it is of considerable value in differentiating between benign, precancerous and malignant lesions.

The monograph is printed on very good quality paper, and is copiously illustrated with excellent black and white reproductions of colposcopic photographs, which should be of considerable assistance to the increasing number of gynaecologists who are using the colposcope as a diagnostic aid. R.P.D.

**FOETAL PATHOLOGY**

*Foetal and Neonatal Pathology.* 2nd ed. By J. E. Morison, M.D., D.Sc. Pp. xiv + 538. Illustrated. R10.40. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1963.

This volume on a particularly difficult field of pathology is divided into 3 parts, viz. disturbances of prenatal life, adaptation to extra-uterine existence and, finally, infections in foetal and neonatal life. The logical sequence of presentation and the clear and lucid style of the author are most pleasing, and the text is supplemented by a wealth of references, to which the reader is guided in a skilled and critical way.

From the purely morphological point of view, this book is certainly not superior to others in the field, but it is placed in a class of its own by the meticulous attention paid to patho-physiology and mechanisms of disease. My only criticism is the relative paucity of illustrations—128 for a book of more than 500 pages.

This book is certainly to be recommended.

J.J.v.d.W.

**OPHTHALMOLOGY**

*Modern Ophthalmology.* Vol. 1: Basic aspects. Ed. by A. Sorsby. Pp. xiii + 531. Illustrated. R13.36. (Complete set of 4 volumes—R48.00.) London and Durban: Butterworths. 1963.

To every ophthalmologist Professor Sorsby has long been an inspiration and a standby, and his *Systematic Ophthalmology* is well known. Judging by this first volume, *Modern Ophthalmology* is going to fulfil a need that up to now has not been satisfied. A student or even a practitioner of the subject can read up on the diversity of modern optical lenses or find the exact meaning of a drug and its action.

A modern textbook is in the making, and the treatment of ophthalmic optics, pharmacology and physiology are a pleasure to read and digest. If this is the precursor of the series of four volumes, then the sooner the others appear the better. G.T.

## ALLERGY

*Allergy and Tissue Metabolism.* By W. G. Smith, B.Pharm., Ph.D., F.R.I.C., M.I.Biol., F.P.S. Pp. vii + 110. R2.50. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1964.

The interdependence of the medical sciences of physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry and experimental pathology is emphasized in this useful attempt to coordinate the research findings in allergic disease processes. The immunological basis of allergy in man and anaphylactic shock in experimental animals are discussed. The part played by the connective tissue mast cells and blood eosinophils is considered as well as the significance of histamine and other chemical mediators of anaphylaxis. There is much valuable information in this small book, from which a clearer understanding will be acquired of the fundamental mechanisms in hypersensitivity. D.O.

## IRRITANTS

*Substances Producing Pain and Itch.* By C. A. Keele, M.D., F.R.C.P. and D. Armstrong, Ph.D. Pp. vi + 399. Illustrated. R5.50. London: Edward Arnold Ltd. 1964.

The authors of this valuable monograph have for a number of years made many investigations and contributions in connection with substances producing pain and itch. In this book they provide details on experimental methods used to study pain production. There are valuable chapters dealing with such enigmatic substances as histamine, 5-hydroxytryptamine, and plasma kinins. There is much interesting information about the composition of various stings and venoms. There is a section on the problem of itch, which has long been a baffling subject. This book is of great interest and importance for research workers in many disciplines. N.S.

## CHEMOTHERAPY

*IIIrd International Congress of Chemotherapy.* Proceedings of the Congress of the International Society of Chemotherapy, Stuttgart, 22-27 July 1963. Ed. by H. P. Kummerle and P. Preziosi. Pp. 904. Illustrated. DM138.00. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1964.

This attractively produced and valuable volume contains 156 papers presented at the International Congress of Chemotherapy held last year in Germany; about one-half are in English. There are hundreds of diagrams and tables also included. Among the three introductory presentations is one dealing with membranes, ribosomes, and bactericidal action. Five papers deal with basic research (carcinoma and virus). Most of the papers deal with the chemotherapy of bacterial infections, with a special section devoted to chemotherapy of tuberculosis. There are also numerous contributions to the subject of antiviral chemotherapy. Obviously this is an important book for microbiologists, pharmacologists, and experts in chemotherapy. N.S.

## PHYSIOLOGY OF PREGNANCY

*The Physiology of Human Pregnancy.* By F. E. Hytten, M.D.(Sydney), Ph.D.(Aberdeen) and I. Leitch, O.B.E., M.A., D.Sc.(Aberdeen). Pp. xii + 463. Illustrated. R5.50. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1964.

For the first time a comprehensive and up-to-date survey of the physiological changes in pregnancy is presented. An excellent feature of this book are the numerous and up-to-date references. The authors also stress that this should not be viewed as a textbook, but is intended for the postgraduate as a provocative work.

The cardiovascular and blood changes in pregnancy are meticulously detailed. Although the problem of weight gain in pregnancy is fully discussed, one feels that a slight diversion to the pathological toxæmias might not have been out of place.

We can only hope that the authors will see their way clear to a similar work on labour and the puerperium. It will be worth the while of every postgraduate in obstetrics and medicine to acquire this stimulating book. D.A.M.

## LAGGAS-NARKOSE

*Nitrous Oxide.* (Clinical Anesthesia, 1/1964) Ed. by D. W. Eastwood, M.D. Pp. ix + 156. Illustrated. R4.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1964.

Hierdie omvattende werk oor distikstofoksied (laggas), is die vrug van 11 skrywers onder redaksie van dr. Eastwood. Meeste van die skrywers is bekende name in Amerikaanse mediese kringe.

Die inhoud wissel van 'n hoofstuk oor die geskiedenis van laggas-narkose tot, o.a. hoofstukke oor die farmakologie van distikstofoksied; die gebruik van die stof tesame met spierverlappers en plaaslike verdowingsmiddels; en tydens kindergeboorte. Daar is ook 'n hoofstuk oor die gebruik van die gas deur die industrieë, en 'n hoofstuk oor etileen.

Die skrywers beklemtoon, weer eens, die feit dat, mits die toediening nie gepaard gaan met hipoksie nie, laggas die mins toksiese inasem-narkosemiddel is wat ons tot ons beskikking het. Die enigste ernstige bekende komplikasie waarvan ook in die boek melding gemaak word, is die feit dat na 'n verlengde toediening van distikstofoksied 'n onderdrukking van die beenmurg en vermindering in die witseltelling kan voorkom. Hierdie tekens sal egter slegs hulle verskyning maak na 'n aanhoudende toediening van die stof vir minstens 48 uur.

Die boek is goed geïllustreer en aan die einde van elke hoofstuk is daar 'n lang lys van verwysings vir die klinikus wat verder op die onderwerp wil ingaan. Ons kan hierdie werk sterk aanbeveel aan al ons kollegas wat belangstel in die geskiedenis van narkose en in die verskillende gebruike van laggas as pynstillende middel. O.V.K.

## DERMATOLOGY

*Dermatology.* Current concept and practice. By P. Hall-Smith, M.D.(Edin.), F.R.C.P.(Edin.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.) and R. J. Cairns, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.). Pp. 256. Illustrated. R6.30. London: Staples Press. 1964.

Although the idea of compiling a concise textbook of dermatology is an excellent one, the scope of the subject makes it impossible to satisfy general practitioners and specialist dermatologists in 250 pages even if tropical diseases are omitted. The summaries, tabular and line-drawings are excellent and the photographs are clear. Despite the methods of treatment being sound, there are some howlers: e.g. guttate parapsoriasis is not a forerunner of reticulosis; Koebner's isomorphic phenomenon has nothing to do with warts in scratches; and the aphthosis syndrome was described by Behçet (from Turkey), not by Bechet (an American musician). J.M.

## BLOEDSTOLLINGSPROBLEME

*The Contact Phase of Blood Coagulation.* By H. L. Nossel, M.B., Ch.B.(Cape Town), F.C.P.(S.A.), M.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.Phil. Pp. xv + 160. R3.50. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1964.

Medici wat selde gemoed raak met die ontrafeling van bloedstollingsprobleme vind dit gewoonlik voldoende om 'n vae kennis van die eerste tien stollingsfaktore te hê. Die kontakfase van stolling word gerieflikshalwe gelaat in die neweland van eksperimentele medisyne. In hierdie feit-belaaiete monograaf deur 'n Suid-Afrikaanse navorser, word die huidige kennis van faktore XI (P.T.A.) en XII (Hagemann faktor) nie net stimulerend uiteengesit nie, maar ook aansienlik aangevul deur oorspronklike werk waarmee hy 'n Oxford D.Phil.-graad verwerf het. Hoewel die boekie oorwegend handel oor eksperimentele werk en bevindinge, spruit belangrike kliniese implikasies tog daaruit voort; die feit dat sekere vetsure kontakaktivering teweegbring en sodoende trombose mag presipiteer, het daadwerklik betrekking op die studie van tromboemboliese vaatsiektes.

Die werk dra die stempel van die wêreldberoemde laboratoria waaruit dit kom, en die voorwoord is dan ook geskryf deur dr. R. G. McFarlane, Eenheid vir Bloedstollingsnavorsing, Oxford. Ten spyte van sy tegniese aard, lees die boek maklik en elke hoofstuk is voorsien van 'n gerieflike opsomming. Navorsers in hierdie veld sal die byvoegsel van waarde vind, waar metodes en eksperimente volledig weergee word. F.P.R.