

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

TEXTBOOK OF OBSTETRICS

Textbook of Obstetrics. 4th ed. By J. F. Cunningham, M.D., M.A.O., F.R.C.P.I., F.R.C.O.G. Pp. x + 502. Illustrated. R6.00. London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd. 1964.

Primarily intended for the undergraduate, this book, first published in 1951, is already in its 4th edition. The script is clear, readable and commendably concise. It has been revised by the staff of the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin, and the relevant ethics of the Roman Catholic church are understandably stressed.

The use of the external pelvic measurements and of the old classification of the toxæmias of pregnancy seemed surprising. This however is a minor criticism of an excellent work, highly recommended for use in M.B., Ch.B. examinations.

E.K.

OPERATIVE GYNAECOLOGY

Vaginal Hysterectomy and Genital Prolapse Repair. A contribution to the vaginal approach in operative gynaecology. By C. F. Krige, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.(Oxon.), F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. xvii + 143. Illustrated. R5.00. Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press. 1965.

This work of a lifetime of thought and application by a dedicated and recognized master surgeon and teacher is serious and successful. The subject matter is of distinct contemporary importance, widely dealt with and lucidly presented.

The particular message is surely and correctly the stress on prevention by adequate technique of the disturbing post-operative prolapse or enterocoele development. Prof. Daubenton has written an admirable foreword to this volume for the trained man.

To have seen the author in action, practising what he preaches, is indeed a most instructive and exciting privilege.

H.C.

GYNAECOLOGY

Gynecology. Principles and Practice. By R. W. Kistner, M.D. Pp. xv + 654. \$16.00. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers. 1964.

This is undoubtedly a very well-written, balanced and erudite book on the principles and practice of gynaecology. Its author is a prominent and experienced man in his field, connected with the well-known teaching institutions in Boston.

The approach is systematic, and the cover comprehensive and up-to-date, including chapters on steroid therapy and cytogenetics. These, together with the introduction and the chapters on endometriosis and fertility, are additional to the otherwise anatomical chapters. This impressive and eminently suitable volume is designed to meet the needs of undergraduate medical students, young practitioners of gynaecology and specialists in this field. It is well printed, has 600 pages and costs approximately R12.

H.C.

OVULATION METHOD

The Ovulation Method. The avoidance of pregnancy in medical practice, by a technique which is safe, reliable and morally acceptable. By J. J. Billings, M.D.(Melb.), F.R.A.C.P., M.R.C.P.(Lond.). Pp. 95. Illustrated. R1.19. Melbourne: The Advocate Press. 1964.

Many married couples have a serious reason, medical or otherwise, for avoiding pregnancy, but for reasons of faith, morals, and/or aesthetics are unwilling to use the conventional contraceptive devices. The author describes a technique for determining the time of ovulation based on the Ogino-Knaus rhythm method combined with the detection of mid-cycle symptoms, to aid couples in planning or avoiding pregnancy.

D.d.B.

OPERATIVE OBSTETRICS

Munro Kerr's Operative Obstetrics. 7th ed. By J. Chassar Moir, C.B.E., Hon.LL.D., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.R.C.O.G. Pp. x + 1003. Illustrated. R12.60. London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1964.

This book covers a very wide field and its 1,000 pages reflect a wealth of experience. It is intended primarily for the post-graduate studying for a higher obstetrical degree, as well as for the qualified specialist obstetrician.

Professor Chassar Moir has an easy style of writing which makes the reading of his work a great pleasure indeed. He has retained some conveniently interspersed delightful personal experiences of the late Munro Kerr, an obstetrical giant in his day. The book is finely illustrated with pictures of a high quality, while adequate references are placed at the bottom of each page—decidedly better than having them at the end of each chapter.

The only reservation I have in the appraisal of this fine volume is the question of the need for two early chapters on antenatal examination and intranatal care respectively, much of which seems rather elementary and out of place in a textbook for the advanced student.

This book can be highly recommended to all who are called upon to handle some of the more difficult problems of pregnancy and childbirth. It surely will remain a classic work for a long time.

E.M.S.

ANAESTHETICS IN OBSTETRICS

Anesthetic Techniques for Obstetrical Anesthesia and Analgesia. By D. C. Moore, M.D. Pp. xi + 211. Illustrated. \$10.50. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

This volume is true to its title and forms a comprehensive practical treatise on a subject in which the average anaesthetist has often little experience and all too little interest. While making no attempt to probe too deeply into the purely scientific aspects of his subject, Dr. Moore aims at giving the maximum amount of practical information and, in his efforts to miss nothing of importance, the earlier chapters dealing with basic problems and general anaesthesia tend to be taken up by comprehensive lists of aetiological factors, symptoms and indications which the reader may well find rather heavy going.

The chapters on regional anaesthetic techniques are, on the other hand, very well written and illustrated while the final chapter, dealing with the resuscitation of the neonate, is an excellent and most valuable addition. The bibliography is also most comprehensive.

Above all, the book presents in compact form information which would normally have to be sifted from a wide range of volumes. It should be a valuable addition to the library of any obstetrician or any anaesthetist, even if the obstetrical side of his practice is largely confined to caesarean sections.

J.C.N.