

BOEKBESPREKINGS : BOOK REVIEWS

CLINICAL OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vol. 9, No. 2. Amniotic fluid—ed. by F. Fuchs, M.D., Dr. Med.; Endometriosis—ed. by T. H. Green, jr., M.D. Pp. 261-584. Illustrated. Quarterly publication, subscription \$18.00 p.a. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row, 1966.

This volume is the latest in the well-known series of quarterly publications. The symposium on endometriosis gives a fairly comprehensive account of the clinical aspects of the disease, while the section on amniotic fluid is perhaps more interesting since such topical subjects as amniocentesis, amniocentesis and transabdominal foetal transfusion for Rh disease, and induction of abortion or labour by the intra-amniotic injection of hypertonic solutions are discussed at length.

As can be expected, the various contributions are not of equal interest or calibre, but the book as a whole is well worth consulting. E.M.S.

PROGESTOGENETTERAPIE

Progestogen Therapy. By M. Roland, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., F.A.C.O.G. Pp. xv + 88. Illustrated. \$9.00. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1965.

In hierdie moderne tyd waar progestogene so baie gebruik word deur ginekoloë en verloskundiges en algemene praktisyne, is dit baie handig om hierdie boek byderhand te hê. Hierdie boek beantwoord die menige vrae oor die indikasies, metode van werking, newe-reaksies, en dosering van die verskillende progestogene wat vandag beskikbaar is. Die indikasies wat veral breedvoerig behandel word, is kontrasepsie, endometriose, menstruele afwykings en swangerskapsdiagnose. Die heel nuutste ontwikkeling, naamlik behandeling van endometriële karsinoom, word egter glad nie genoem nie. Die gehalte van die drukwerk en illustrasies is goed.

J.N.deV.

BIRTH CONTROL

Family Planning. A handbook for the doctor. Ed. by M. Pollock, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G. Pp. x + 190. Illustrated. R3.00. London: Bailliere, Tindall & Cassell, 1966.

At a cost which is rather less than that of many a novel, this moderately priced book is quite as interesting and certainly more informative. The field covered is a wide one, ranging from a full consideration of the different methods of birth control, both past and present, to discussions on subfertility and on how to help couples in some of their more intimate troubles.

Sixteen authors contribute, so some chapters are more technical than others, but the whole book is so informative and so well written, especially the sections on 'the pill' and intra-uterine devices, that it will appeal to both the professional man and the educated layman. Heartily recommended.

H.W.

ANTIFERTILITY COMPOUNDS

Antifertility Compounds in the Male and Female. Development, actions and applications of chemicals affecting the reproductive processes of animals, insects and man. By H. Jackson, Ph.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.Sc. (Manc.). Pp. xvii + 214. Illustrated. \$8.75. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1966.

This is an American publication by a British author which deals with the subject of antifertility chemicals in both sexes.

The effects of chemical agents on the fertility of experimental animals receive detailed attention. There is also a brief account of the latest developments in the field of chemosterilization of male insects. Unlike the usual insecticides which allow the residual insects to repopulate by the normal geometric increase, the sterile male technique becomes increasingly efficient as the population falls. This knowledge obviously has extensive possibilities in the problems of insect control, disease control and food production. There is also an introduction to the study of insect-attracting chemicals (pheromones), some of which have been isolated and could possibly be used in an infested area to confuse insects in the location of their mates.

The work also contains an interesting discussion of the development and employment of chemicals in fertility control in human males and females.

The book can be recommended to the pharmacologist, urologist and gynaecologist. E.M.S.

OBSTETRICAL COMPLICATIONS DURING ANAESTHESIA

Clinical Anaesthesia—Obstetric Complications. Ed. by J. J. Bonica, M.D. Pp. xi + 202. Illustrated. R4.00. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1966.

This further edition in the *Clinical Anaesthesia* series is edited by Professor Bonica. Each chapter deals with an obstetrical problem which is discussed under the following broad headings: Basic considerations; obstetrical management; and anaesthetic management. The first 2 divisions are covered well, but the last section is very brief. However, Professor Bonica stated that this was deliberate so as to stress to the anaesthetist the problems and objectives of the obstetrician. Typical of American practice, the authors recommend almost exclusively some form or other of local anaesthesia.

This manuscript is well worth reading, particularly by the anaesthetist who is interested in obstetrics and by the obstetrician. This can only foster the idea of the great importance of teamwork in the management of obstetrical complications.

H.J.duT.

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY

Preimplantation Stages of Pregnancy. Ed. by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., F.R.C.P., F.I.Biol. Pp. xii + 430. Illustrated. R6.50. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1966.

This book is the complete and detailed record of a symposium held in April 1965 and sponsored by the Ciba Foundation. The speakers and participants were invited from a wide variety of scientific fields interested in reproductive biology, comprising among others physiologists, biochemists, zoologists, obstetricians, anatomists, agricultural research workers, animal geneticists, pharmacologists, experimental biologists and embryologists. Discussions range from ultrastructural changes in the ovum, through the early stages in the embryological development of the fertilized ovum up to implantation. Experimental genetic aspects and factors controlling development are discussed as well as certain aspects of sperm penetration. Finally the effects of maternal environment on implantation with special reference to the hormonal influences regulating implantation are discussed.

The detailed reports of the discussions which followed each paper add considerably to the value of this book.

J.N.deV.