

# Books

## ***Core Obstetrics and Gynaecology\****

By J. T. Nel. Pp xvii + 992. Illustrated. Durban: Butterworths. 1995. ISBN 0-409-10134-6.

For some years now, I have lamented the absence of a good, home-grown, comprehensive, student-centred textbook of obstetrics and gynaecology designed specifically for South African needs. Such a local publication has just emerged, and I am thrilled to welcome the new textbook by Professor Johan Nel of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of the OFS. The book is written for the clinical student preparing for his or her final M.B. Ch.B. examinations in this speciality, although its format renders it particularly suitable as a reference work by practising clinicians.

This user-friendly textbook has an attractive layout and a well-conceived format of headings, subheadings and numbering of subparagraphs. The text is liberally illustrated with clear photographs and good quality line drawings, and is written in a straightforward, no-nonsense language and an easy style.

The first 18 pages are devoted to a useful account of how to take a good history, conduct a proper obstetrical or gynaecological examination, and confidently present a clinical case to the examiners during a viva voce. Although the author makes reference to the traditional (but notoriously inaccurate) estimation of gestational age by manual palpation, he also discusses at some depth the use of a measuring tape to determine fundal height.

Later on in the book, the author offers valuable additional information and advice on the written examination, the oral

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examination and the OSCE.

The section on obstetrics is comprehensive, with the chapters arranged logically from the diagnosis of pregnancy to postnatal care to maternal and perinatal statistics. The author's approach and use of illustrations renders complex subjects such as multiple pregnancy and Rh disease much easier to grasp. The gynaecological section begins with general gynaecology, and then goes on to explore specialised areas such as gynaecological urology, oncology, reproductive medicine and so on. In all of this, the author's experience as a teacher comes brilliantly through, evidenced among other things by the manner in which the text is kept concise and remarkably free of clutter, while providing all the information that a student or general practitioner might need.

In summary, this is a book that I would enthusiastically recommend for undergraduate students in obstetrics and gynaecology, and for practitioners involved in the care of women.

**Daniel J. Ncayiyana**

## **A Manual of Practical Labour Ward Management**

Edited by J. Dommissie and written by the Staff of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Cape Town. Pp iv + 84. R25. Cape Town: UCT. 1995. ISBN 0-7992-1571-6

The UCT Manual of Practical Labour Ward Management is an old and trusted standby that has served its users faithfully since it was first published in 1982. The guide is designed to fit into any white coat pocket, and is written in almost telegraphic style for easier reference in the workplace. Despite its multiple authorship, its presentation and style are consistent throughout.

The manual covers every conceivable labour ward situation: trial labour, induction, preterm labour and PROM, cervical cerclage, Caesar, diabetes, heart disease, pregnancy hypertension, cord prolapse, APH and numerous other situations in labour.

Because of my awareness of UCT's previous sceptical stance towards magnesium sulphate, I rushed to review the chapter on gestational proteinuric hypertension in this new edition, and was pleased to note that this treatment receives unequivocal mention. Many rural hospital staff readers will be discomfited by the warning that a CVP line is 'totally unreliable' as a guide to i/v fluid management. The Swan Ganz catheter which is recommended for this purpose will not be readily available at peripheral institutions.

The chapter on preterm labour provides an excellent guide in the management of this prevalent and distressing event; but some may question the wisdom of waiting 24 hours before initiating prophylactic steroid treatment. The chapters on 'Drugs and Dosages' and 'Pregnancy Values and Ranges' will be particularly useful to clinicians in general hospitals.

All in all, this is a manual that doctors, medical students and nurses looking after women in labour should have in

their coat pockets. It can be obtained directly from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at UCT.

**Daniel J. Ncayiyana**

## **Books received**

The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The *SAMJ* does not publish unsolicited reviews.

**Management of Neurological Disorders.\*** Edited by C. M. Wiles. Pp. viii + 325. £27. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0903-7.

**Medical Audit and General Practice.\*** Second edition. Edited by Marshall Marinker. Pp. xiv + 214. £17. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0908-8.

**National Cancer Control Programmes. Policies and Managerial Guidelines.** WHO. Pp. xviii + 134. Sw.fr.32/US\$28,80. Geneva: WHO. 1995. ISBN 92-4-154474-0.

**Gastrointestinal Cancers: Biology, Diagnosis and Therapy.** Edited by Anil K. Rustgi. Illustrated. US\$194,50. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott-Raven. 1995. ISBN 0-7817-02763.

**ABC of Hypertension.\*** Third Edition. By E. T. O'Brien, D. G. Beevers and H. J. Marshall. Pp. 76. Illustrated. £14. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0769-7.

**ABC of Resuscitation.\*** Third Edition. Edited by M. C. Colquhoun, A. J. Handley and T. R. Evans. Pp. 84. Illustrated. £9. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0839-1.

**ABC of Breast Diseases.\*** Edited by J. M. Dixon. Pp. 69. Illustrated. £15. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0915-0.

**South African Family Practice Manual.** Volumes 1-12. Pp. 630. Illustrated. Price on request. Johannesburg: The South African Academy for Family Practice. ISBN 0-620-19387-5.

**Cardiovascular Physiology. Fundamentals of Anaesthesia and Acute Medicine.\*** Edited by Hans-Joachim Priebe and Karl Skarvan. Series Editors Ronald M. Jones, Alan R. Aitkenhead and Pierre Foëx. Pp. xii + 302. Illustrated. £33. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0781-6.

**Saunders' Pocket Essentials of Psychiatry.** By Basant K. Puri. Series Editors P. Kumar and M. Clark. Pp. 137. £9,95. Sidcup, Kent: Harcourt Brace & Co Ltd. 1995. ISBN 0-7929-1877-5.

**Visceral Pain.** Process in Pain Research Management Volume 5: International Association for the Study of Pain. Edited by Gerald F. Gebhart. Pp. x + 501. Illustrated. US\$69. Seattle: IASP Press. 1995. ISBN 0-931092-10-8.

**Methyl Bromide.** Environmental Health Criteria No. 166. WHO. Pp. 324. Sw.fr.47/US\$42,30. Geneva: WHO. 1995. ISBN 92-4-157-1667.

**Patient Controlled Analgesia.\*** PPS Series. By Edward Welchew. Series Editors C. E. W. Hahn and A. P. Adams. Pp. viii + 128. Illustrated. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0860-X.

**Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology.** By Connie R. Mahon and George Manuselis jr. Pp. xxvi + 1076. Illustrated. £29,95. Philadelphia: WB Saunders Company. 1995. ISBN 0-7216-4028-1.

**Diagnostic Hematology.** By Bernadette F. Rodak. Pp. xvi + 702. Illustrated. £29,95. Philadelphia: WB Saunders Company. 1995. ISBN 0-7216-4727-8.