

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

MODERN TRENDS IN GYNAECOLOGY

Modern Trends in Gynaecology, 3. Ed. by R. J. Kellar, M.B.E., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.O.G. Pp. vii + 203. Illustrated. R5.20. London and Durban: Butterworths. 1963.

In this companion volume to *Modern Trends in Obstetrics* the editor carefully selected short essays on topical gynaecological subjects written by eleven different authorities. In as much as it reflects current thought in the field of gynaecology the book is a success. I feel that the publication of this type of book by various co-authors is well justified, since the reader is provided with a balanced perspective, as seen through the glasses of an expert in a particular field.

J.J. de W.

PROGRESS IN GYNAECOLOGY

Progress in Gynecology, Vol. IV. Ed. by J. V. Meigs, M.D. and S. H. Sturgis, M.D. Pp. xi + 676. Illustrated. \$16.75. New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1963.

This long and eagerly awaited sequel to Vol. III of *Progress in Gynecology*, which was published as long ago as 1957, lives up to expectations in most respects. Excellent reviews, often with reference to the authors' own original work, are given on such new topics as chromosome studies and disordered sex differentiation, induction of ovulation, lymphangiadenography, urinary cytology in the endocrine evaluation of the normal female, and recent advances in our knowledge of the female sex hormones.

The vast majority of the contributors are American. These include such eminent authorities as Meigs, Sturgis, Brunschwig, Goldzieher and Guttmacher. A few 'foreign' names also appear as authors: Kottmeier, Navratil, Antoine and Shirodkar. The British are conspicuous by their absence. Admittedly, there have been several recent British publications on advances and modern trends in gynaecology. The new edition of *Progress in Gynecology*, however, in contrast to much other American medical writing, is definitely superior to its British counterparts.

There are a few criticisms: Even though this is primarily an American effort, there is a remarkable paucity of references to British work. This cannot be said to be due to the virtual absence of British contributions to recent advances in gynaecology, but smacks rather of a peculiar parochialism in the outlook of trans-Atlantic medicine, and gynaecology in particular. Furthermore, there is at least one contribution to this volume, namely that on primary dysmenorrhoea, which typifies the worst in the style of American medical writing: It succeeds only in filling a large number of pages in a most involved and bombastic style, with wordy nothings.

Nevertheless, this is an excellent book. Despite its nearly prohibitive price, all practising gynaecologists will want to read it. For postgraduate students in gynaecology it is an absolute 'must'.

R.P.D.

CLINICAL OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vol. 6, No. 3. Prenatal care—ed. by M. E. Davis, M.D.: Pelvic pain—ed. by J. P. Greenhill, M.D. Pp. 529-810. Illustrated. Published quarterly, subscription \$18.00 per annum. New York: Hoeber Medical Division, Harper & Row Publishers. 1963.

This volume follows the same pattern as previous issues, consisting of two symposia, the one an obstetrical and the other a gynaecological topic. In the section on antenatal care, great attention is paid to the emotional, 'psycho-physical' and social aspects, which are probably worthy of re-emphasis, especially to those in full-time hospital practice. Perhaps the best chapter in this section, however, is that on cytological screening during pregnancy. This includes a discussion of the management of invasive and pre-invasive carcinoma of the cervix in pregnancy.

The symposium on pelvic pain includes chapters on endometriosis, dysmenorrhoea and pelvic malignancy; and on paracervical denervation and alcohol injection, hypnosis, presacral neurectomy and subarachnoid injection of alcohol for the relief of pelvic pain.

This issue of *Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology*, like some of its recent predecessors, is rather disappointing. A great deal is written, without very much being said, and very little indeed is new.

R.P.D.

ENAVID

Symposium on Enavid. Held in Johannesburg on Friday, 18 January 1963. Pp. 46. No charge. Johannesburg: Medical Proceedings. 1963.

This excellent little book contains six papers presented by gynaecologists from all over Southern Africa, and represents their views on, and results of, treating various gynaecological disorders with 'enavid'. At first glance the medical practitioner will be under the impression that the medical profession has at last found the magic potion which will cure all gynaecological ills. A closer study, however, will reveal that this is not so and that many pitfalls await the unwary who prescribe this type of tablet indiscriminately.

The published papers stress that the use of these pills is limited to a few well-defined conditions such as endometriosis, dysfunctional uterine bleeding (after a thorough investigation), primary spasmodic dysmenorrhoea (as a therapeutic test for a few cycles), and of course as a contraceptive agent in selected patients for a limited period of time. This book should be read by all practitioners especially in view of the claims made by the manufacturers of the manifold brands of these pills now flooding the market.

A.M.M.