

Book reviews

Pathophysiologie I and II

H. E. Bock (ed.)
Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 1972
(I: xvi+540 pp., 123 Figs., 47 Tables)
(II: xvi+442 pp., 112 Figs., 29 Tables)
I: DM 15.80; II: DM 15.80

These two paperbacks are composed by thirty authors and written in German. The books cover the pathophysiology of the organ and body functions schematically, and are intended for students. A short list of references is given after each chapter. A special chapter concerning gynecology and/or obstetrics is lacking, probably due to the omission of this specialism in the list of authors, which also results in the superficial covering of the endocrinology of the reproductive organs.

This issue can be used as a summarizing text book for students and a summarizing reference book for specialists.

J. de Haan, Nijmegen

Amniotic Fluid. Research and Clinical Application

D. V. I. Fairweather and T. K. A. B. Eskes (eds.)
Excerpta Medica, Amsterdam, 1973
(343 pp., illustrated)
Dfl. 91.—; ca. US\$ 31.90

During the last decades, the information about the liquor amnii increased rapidly and numerous studies have been published concerning its origin and constituents. This book, by an international team of contributors, aims to present in one volume an up-to-date and comprehensive collection of most of the known aspects of research studies on the liquor amnii and their clinical application.

The editors have succeeded in composing an extremely valuable source of information which covers almost every aspect of knowledge about the subject. More than twenty authors gave contribu-

tions about the origin, circulation and volume of amniotic fluid, water dynamics and various aspects of biochemistry, spectrophotometry, cytology, clinical applications in Rh isoimmunization, hormones, prenatal diagnosis of genetic diseases, amniotic fluid pressure and amniotic fluid embolism. The important subject of lecithin-sphingomyelin ratio and RDS is dealt with very briefly and would have deserved more attention. In a volume made up of so many different contributions, some overlap is inevitable but not troublesome.

This book is warmly recommended to research workers, obstetricians, pediatricians, biochemists and others who want to have in a concise form, a large amount of information about this important subject.

P. E. Treffers, Amsterdam

Bone Behaviour

Kitty Little
Academic Press, London - New York, 1973
(xv+464 pp., 335 illustrations)
£ 8.—

As the author states in the preface, this book was written for the use of both medical students and junior doctors. This means that this book needs to be more than a collection of facts. Its aim for the students should be to provide knowledge of facts; as for the junior doctors who wish to do some research, it should give information about what has been published about bone. For the students, in my opinion, too many facts are given, although the author made very good and compact summaries at the ends of all chapters. For the junior doctors a review is given about the different aspects of bone tissue.

After an introduction, the intercellular matrices, calcification, the development and growth, the formation and removal, of bone are discussed. The

influences of mechanical factors, stress, hormones and steroids are also presented. In the chapter about degenerative conditions, the clinical aspects of bone disease are mentioned, but this chapter is too brief for the clinicians in this section. Two chapters are added, one about cell proliferation and one about the effects of irradiation on bone.

In the list of references 587 numbers are given, but only 4 from 1971 and none from later years. Therefore the book will not be very up to date. Maybe this is the reason that recent developments about vitamin D, parathyroid hormone and calcitonin are lacking. Another interesting point in bone research is the piezo-electric effect on bone, but this is not mentioned either.

In conclusion, this book gives much information about many aspects of bone, with many (black-white) pictures, but some essential aspects of bone metabolism have not been discussed; it will be up to date until about 1970.

S. A. Duursma, Utrecht

Les Consultations Journalières en Gynécologie

L. Bellot and S. Sersiron
Collection 'Les Consultations Journalières'
Masson et Cie, Paris, 1973
(x+202 pp., 13 Figs)
Ffr. 40.—

The Collection 'Les Consultations Journalières', directed by M. Albeaux-Fernet, complies with the desire of the general practitioner to escape the abstraction of a highly technical treatise, while permitting him to grasp the material by presenting to him different cases. This monograph by Bellot and Sersiron, complies perfectly with the intentions of the promoters of the Collection.

The authors approach gynecological problems as a function of patients' age, and for each group, they analyse the principle reasons for consulting. Using the symptom as a starting point, the case history and clinical examination elicit and indicate the essential elements which allow them to arrive at the diagnosis, after a judicious choice of paraclinical examinations. This method of presentation is one of the positive aspects of the monograph which will prove very helpful for the general practitioner's daily consultations.

The specialist, however, will regret certain negative aspects in the area of investigation and treatment. For example, it is unfortunate that in 1973 the gonadotrophin values were expressed in mouse units rather than international units, using specific radioimmunoassay of FSH and LH. No mention is made of dynamic tests of hypophysary and ovarian functions, even though they are most helpful in establishing diagnosis and therapy.

These criticisms do not diminish the authors' merit. Their monograph is pleasant and easy to read, and its utilization will be highly profitable to those who are interested in the problems of our discipline.

R. Lambotte, Liege

Maternity Care. A Socio-Economic Analysis

R. M. Lapré
Tilburg Studies on Health Care, Vol. I.
Tilburg University Press, The Netherlands, 1973
(xii+99 pp., 68 Tables)
Hfl. 35.50

This book is an account of the marketing-analytical approach to maternity care in the Netherlands.

In the Netherlands, where obstetrical care services have a long history, it is a subject that evokes a great deal of emotional discussion. On the one hand it is stressed that a normal delivery can responsibly take place at home, while on the other it is postulated that adequate obstetrical care is nowadays so complicated, that there is urgent need for supervision by specialists and hospitalization.

In planning new forms of organization of obstetrical care services there is agreement that, while augmenting hospitalization, it is worthwhile to promote a structure in which prenatal, natal and postnatal care is provided in centers of physiological obstetrics, for those who do not need advanced obstetrical care, and in departments of obstetrical pathology for high risk patients. It is also advisable that the center of physiological obstetrics and the department of obstetrical pathology should be located near each other, and should be supervised by the same specialized nursing and medical staff.

It is valuable to have hard facts at one's disposal concerning the costs of obstetrical care nowadays, and those of the planned new organization, and in