English and French law, and the legal position of the doctor who is performing AID or who initiates a pregnancy by embryo transfer are discussed.

This book can be recommended to all, in- and outside the medical profession, who are interested in the subject, especially in the legal, moral and ethical aspects.

P. E. Treffers, Amsterdam

Obstetrics and Gynecology Annual 1973

R. M. Wynn (ed.)
Appleton–Century–Crofts, New York, 1973
(x + 545 pp., illustrated)
U. S. $ 17.50

In this Annual, Wynn describes substantial improvements in technique and changes in the interpretation of fine structure of placenta ultrastructure. Ultrastructural examination of the placenta has elucidated several immunologic factors. Naftolin and Judd give a recapitulation of the testicular feminization syndrome. Special attention is paid to the incomplete syndrome. Patients with complete testicular feminization should be raised as girls and the testis may be left in place until after puberty. Patients with the incomplete syndrome must undergo prepubertal gonadectomy because the patient is only partially insensitive to androgens and will virilize at puberty. Greiss summarizes the available knowledge of those factors controlling the nonpregnant and pregnant uterine circulations. Particular attention has been focussed upon factors controlling placental blood flow. McCartney reviews the subject of hypertension in pregnancy. In his opinion antihypertensive drugs like Apresoline, Unitensen and Reserpine are widely used. The management of eclampsia is magnesium sulfate and morphine. Valium treatment is not mentioned. Hamilton and McKeown write an article on biochemical and electronic monitoring of the fetus. Fetal blood sampling introduced by Saling, electronic monitoring of the fetal heart rate and uterine contractions, and ultrasound techniques are discussed. Iffy gives a review of the methods that at various stages of gestation and under different conditions are of help in ascertaining fetal maturity.

Besides the clinical assessment, laboratory techniques are developed: radiologic, isotopic and ultrasonic techniques; amniotic fluid analysis and fetal and placental biopsy; blood levels and urinary excretion of hormones and enzymes. Paton and Fisher define the dysmature infant in the light of currently available information. They stress the point that at present most demographic statistics fail to differentiate the preterm infant from the infant who is small for gestational age, since all infants with a birth-weight less than 2500 grams are grouped together. Gottschalk's article called 'General anesthesia in obstetrics' should be studied by everyone doing obstetric operations.

Some items: All patients must fast during labor. All patients in labor must be considered as having full stomachs. For cesarean section the patient remains awake until she is prepared and draped and the surgeons are ready to operate. Too frequently the anesthesiologist is not notified until the last minute. Many obstetricians make promises to their patients with regard to obstetrical anesthesia without consultation with an anesthesiologist. Lehfeldt reviews the current status of oral contraception. Special attention is paid to side effects as thromboembolism, hypertension, hematologic effects, cancer, sexual drive, depression, genetic aspects, and the oversuppression or postpill amenorrhea.

Tatum summarizes intrauterine contraception. Most interesting are his ideas of what is factual and what is conjectural with regard to the mechanisms whereby an intrauterine foreign body influences infertility. It is suggested, that the accumulation of polymorphonuclear leukocytes may, by phagocytic activity reduce the number of ascending sperm to such a degree, that fertilization is unlikely. Considerable evidence has been found suggesting that some cytotoxic material is associated with the presence of the IUD. The IUD effects upon tubal and myometrial contractile patterns might modify the sensitivity of the endometrium to hormones or change the histology of it. The actions contributed to copper must be triggered by the process of dissolution of copper atoms and their simultaneous oxidation to oxides.

Russell makes it clear that success or failure of reproduction depends as much upon the skills and knowledge of doctors and nurses as upon a wide variety of social influences. Hodgekinson and Drukker summarize the reasons for failure of stress urinary incontinence operations. The slogan: "do a vaginal repair first, and if it fails, go above" is a bad

adage. Operative techniques should be sufficiently flexible according certain basic anatomic changes found prior to plastic handling. Greene comes to the conclusion that feminizing tumors of the ovary seldom associate with carcinoma of the ovary, and that the production of carcinoma of the endometrium by an estrogen-producing tumor through a stage of endometrial hyperplasia is a rare event.

Toft reviews the knowledge of steroid hormone receptors in reproductive tissues. Chatterton gives a review of the recent development of the principles and methodology for the assay of steroids by radioligand techniques, which provides a new vista for endocrinology. Scommegna shows the importance of estriol assays in complicated pregnancies. Not all placental alterations affect estriol excretion in a similar manner or extent.

Twobly answers the question: what is a gynecologic oncologist? He is a person who gives almost all of his time to diagnosing and treating cancer of the female genital organs. He must be skillful in gynecology, surgery, pathology, radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

This Annual 1973 is worth reading for everyone concerned with obstetrics and gynecology.

P. G. Hart, Utrecht

Bonney's Gynaecological Surgery, 8th ed.

J. Howkins and J. Stallworthy
Ballièrre Tindall, London, 1974
(x + 868 pp., 506 Figs.)
£ 11.–

The eighth edition of Bonney's well-known book on gynecological surgery has again been edited by two of his pupils. This is probably for the last time. The book covers the entire field of gynecological surgery. It contains descriptions of the simplest operations, as, for instance, cervical dilatation, but also of pelvic exenteration. The operations are mostly of the standard type, no mention being made of numerous variants. In some cases this is regarded as an omission. For instance where the original 'Le Fort' operation is rightly regarded as obsolete, other, better methods of complete or partial colpocleises are not included. On the other hand, myectomy, for instance, is described in detail, as are many forms of surgical tubal sterilization.

Hardly any mention is made of the currently predominant method of tubal coagulation under laparoscopical control or via a colpotomy.

The author gives a warning against concluding too readily that sterilizing interventions are indicated. There are highly interesting chapters on preoperative and postoperative care, as well as on postoperative complications. This is still a standard textbook typical of British gynecological surgery, in which the use of Reverdin's needle is preferred to that of Deschamps' needle. The illustrations are simple but clear. This book is recommended mostly to young gynecologists, but more experienced surgeons will also find it of great interest.

Th. J. van Sante, Heerlen

The Management of Infertility

I. D. Cooke (ed.)
Clinics in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Vol. 1, No. 2
W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia – London – Toronto, 1974 (213 pp., illustrated)
(subscription price £ 10.–; single copy price £ 5–.)

This book is the second of a series of capita selecta of which three books a year are edited. The issue is specifically written for gynecologists working in district hospitals. Not all aspects of infertility are dealt with, but emphasis is laid on numerous topics of which underlying information has been obtained in the last few years. The many chapters written by different authors are of good quality, but not all of them could reach the same high level.

The first two chapters dealing with the endocrinological basis and the management of menstrual disorders are beyond any doubt the best part of the book. The chapters dealing with the cervix, the endometrium, laparoscopy, male infertility, psychological factors in infertility and pregnancies following infertility also contain a lot of useful information. A chapter dealing with the new approach to tubal surgery is lacking.

In summary, this book is useful to the gynecologist working in a district hospital who needs good guidance in the jungle of modern and relevant publications. It is valuable also to residents in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

J. Schoemaker, Amsterdam