

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Lehrbuch der Gynäkologie* by K. KNÖRR, F. K. BELLER and C. LAURITZEN.  
XV + 431 pp., 240 fig. Springer Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, 1972.  
DM 38,—; ca. US \$ 11.90.

This book is written for the new type of student, who prefers to be taught in small groups, and not to be bothered with old theories and hobbies of his teachers. The price of this work is so low, that everyone can afford to buy it.

The authors try to explain the classical gynecological syndromes of the physiology of the female genital organs. Special attention is paid to the gynecological endocrinology. LAURITZEN has made it clear, that knowledge of the hormonal status of the female organism, in her different periods of life under physiological and pathophysiological circumstances, is necessary to diagnose and treat precisely several gynecological diseases. The authors have also written good chapters on subjects as preventive medicine and psychosomatic diseases in gynecology.

Apart from some undue dogmatism (space-saving?) there is little to criticize in the contents of this book and its authors are to be congratulated on the really up to date text. One hopes that the new type of student does not think that a book of 431 pages is too thick to learn gynecology in a modern way.

P. G. HART, Utrecht

*Methoden der pharmakologischen Geburtserleichterung und Uterus-Relaxation.* Edited by H. JUNG. VIII + 192 pp., 131 fig., 50 tables. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 1972. DM 44,—.

HUGO JUNG reports on the International Symposium held in Aachen, June 1970. Papers were presented on: uterine activity and cervical dilatation; analgetics, local and general anesthesia in obstetrics; uterine inhibition. Most of the data presented were derived from external recordings of uterine contractions, fetal tachograms and fetal blood analysis. The role of betamimetic drugs, alcohol and calcium antagonists as research tools in the study of inhibition of uterine activity is extensively discussed.

It is to be deplored that since most papers are written in German not all interested obstetricians will have access to the contents of this international symposium.

T. K. A. B. ESKES, Nijmegen

*Ovulationshemmung durch Hormone* by JÜRGEN HALLER. XII + 251 pp., 82 fig., 51 tables. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 1971, 3rd ed. DM 39,80.

This book which first appeared in 1965, serves as the most authoritative work on hormonal contraception in the German language. This 3rd edition has been translated by HERBERT GOTTFRIED into English.

Recent developments in hormonal contraception have necessitated a revision of all chapters. These changes include effects upon tubal motility, multiple sclerosis and vaginal infections, as well as the influence upon the metabolism of tryptophane, nitrogen and

phosphor. In this new edition the over-suppression syndrome with persistent amenorrhea receives special attention, as well as the risks of thrombo-embolism.

HALLER's book is of good quality and is a valuable guide to the general physician and the gynecologist who prescribe hormonal contraceptives.

A. A. HASPELS, Utrecht

*Haut als endokrines Erfolgsorgan — Gestagene — Geriatrische Endokrinologie des Mannes.* Edited by J. KRACHT. 17e Symposium der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Endokrinologie in Hamburg, 4-6 März. VII + 196 pp., 84 fig. Springer Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, 1971. DM 38,—; ca. US \$ 11.60.

This book contains the extracts of papers read at a symposium of the German Endocrine Society. Most of them are written in German, but nearly all have a summary in English. There are three subjects: a. the role of the human skin in endocrinology; b. the gestagens; c. the geriatric endocrinology of the male. For the gynecologist the second subject is the most important. ZANDER and RUNNEBAUM reported upon the physiology and pathophysiology of corpus luteum function in women. OVERBEEK gives a review of the metabolism and effects of synthetic gestagens. HAMMERSTEIN draws attention to the develop-

ment in the therapeutical application of gestagens. The panel discussion after these three papers concerns the side-effects of gestagen therapy.

It is not possible to report the details, but the reader will find many interesting facts.

W. P. PLATE, The Hague

*Ergebnisse der Bluttransfusionsforschung Vol. 11.* Edited by M. MATTHES, N. KLEINE and L. P. HOLLÄNDER. Bibliotheca Haematologica No. 37. VIII + 467 pp., 117 fig., 88 tables. S. Karger, Basel, 1971. Sw.frs. 120,—; US \$ 28.80; DM 120,—; £ 12.65.

This book contains the Proceedings of the 14th Meeting of the German Society for Blood Transfusion which was held in Giessen, April 8-11, 1970. Prof. R. R. RACE from London delivered the honorary paper on "Blood Groups and human genetics", a fascinating review of the various ways in which the knowledge of blood groups has contributed to human biology. Other topics of the congress were: histocompatibility, transfusion accidents, Australia antigen and hepatitis, exchange transfusion in adults, therapy with plasma substitutes and platelet immunology.

Although this book is not meant for gynecologists, those with a special interest in the field of immunohematology will find much useful information in it.

E. BORST-EILERS, Utrecht