

versity of Munich. The authors have succeeded in their aim: that of giving practical information on psychology for everyday gynecological practice.

The work consists of three parts: socio-medical aspects, psychological aspects and medical-sexological aspects.

The first part gives us a sophisticated discussion on the issue of female emancipation, and deals with the taboo subject of death in the hospital.

The second part deals with the psychological and psychosomatic aspects of many topics which the gynecologist is confronted with in his daily practice. Some of these themes are: contraception, sterile marriage, hormonal therapy in menopause, psychological problems in the postpartum, therapy of marital discord, sterilisation and so on. The chapters discussed are written in a practice-oriented manner, and are very useful for gynecologists.

A third part deals with the diagnosis and therapy of sexual dysfunctions. In 25 pages it gives basic information of medical sexology, i.e., what a gynecologist should know about sexual dysfunctions in his patients, without himself undertaking a formal therapy.

Finally, this is a highly commendable volume for the gynecologist who wishes to improve the psychological impact of his practice without becoming a mini-psychiatrist.

One critical note: authors of languages other than German are only rarely mentioned in the bibliography.

L. Beusen, Bonheiden

Mucus

J.R. Clamp (ed.)

British Medical Bulletin, Vol. 34, No. 1, 1978

Medical Department, The British Council, London (94 pp.)

£ 6.00

The first number of the British Medical Bulletin of 1978 is dedicated to the physiology and pathology of mucus in the human body, especially in the tracheobronchial tract, the gastrointestinal tract and the female genital tract. To a certain degree 'Mucus' can be compared with 'Mucus in Health and Disease',

the Proceedings of an International Symposium held in Guildford in 1976, published in 1977. Both issues have the same purpose: that of being a multidisciplinary approach to one of the earliest materials in ovulation. However, 'Mucus' can only to a certain degree be considered a condensation of the contents of 'Mucus in Health and Disease', as the authors and topics are only partly the same.

Both books begin with a chapter on terminology, to bring some order into the perfect Babel of tongues which is characteristic of the biochemical and histochemical nomenclature of mucus. One is impressed by the fact that the evolution of the nomenclature is so much faster than that of the material itself. In 1977 the term 'mucin', to designate 'mucous glycoprotein', was still acceptable. In 1978 the same author recommended abandoning the word 'mucin' and replacing 'mucous glycoprotein' by 'mucus glycoprotein'. Such things are for the 'Continental English'-speaking scientist sometimes difficult to understand.

However that may be, the papers in 'Mucus' are of such a high standard and the lay-out is so perfect that the book can be recommended to every scientist and clinician who is interested in the secrets of mucus.

J. Kremer, Utrecht

Andrology. Basic and Clinical Aspects of Male Reproduction and Infertility

Series: Progress in Reproductive Biology, Vol. 3

J. Bain, E.S.E. Hafez and B.N. Barwin (eds.)

S. Karger, Basel, 1978

(184 + vii pp., 29 Figs., 30 Tables)

DM 98.—; US \$ 49.00

The subtitle of this volume, in the generally excellent series on 'Progress in Reproductive Biology', clarifies that the content concerns 'Basic and clinical aspects of male reproduction and infertility'.

Therefore, the volume is expected to review several aspects of the diagnosis and treatment of fertility- and sexual disturbances in the male. However, the volume editors have insufficiently coordinated the contributing papers, so that many repetitions occur, whereas, at the same time, important aspects remain