

## BOOK REVIEW

**STERILIZATION—AS A MEANS OF BIRTH CONTROL IN MEN AND WOMEN.** By Norman Morris and Humphrey Arthure.

This low-priced book written in simple language gives a fairly comprehensive background information on population problems, anatomy, physiology etc., necessary to understand the vital role sterilization can play in population control.

The technical procedures are presented in a simple, easy to understand manner. The emphasis on counselling is commendable. However, postpartum sterilizations and abortion sterilizations, which are popular in India, have been unfortunately discouraged.

This book can be recommended to undergraduates, paramedics, family planning workers and informed laymen.

S. D. Khandwala

**PROGRESS IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY, VOLUME I.** Edited by John Studd and published by Churchill Livingstone.

The volume consists of 22 topics pertaining to modern obstetrics and gynaecology. The contributions on dry subjects like the epidemiology of perinatal loss and the effect of race on perinatal mortality which do not make only a fine reading but present a guidance to the approach to the subjects. Similarly, controversial problems like value of alpha-fetoproteins in screening programme, the value of antenatal fetal monitoring and second thoughts on stopping labour are thought-

provocating. The volume has also provided upto-date information on TORCH and viral perinatal infections, and etiology of eclampsia.

In gynaecological section, the article on cystometry in the understanding of urinary incontinence is adequately informative—academically. Contributor herself commits that the procedure has its limitations because of involved cost and needed experience. The article on abdominal approach of urinary incontinence, and the operation of neourethra and artificial sphincters is informative, though one will have to wait for more reports over this procedure which appears to be quite formidable for achieving results. The articles on carcinoma of cervix and the carcinoma of ovary contribute upto-date information. The articles on important topics like management of prolactin-secreting pituitary tumours hirsutism and tubal microsurgery have brought out upto-date information. The articles in the volume give an upto-date thought-provoking information and still they are not exhausting. This volume has aptly served its purpose of meeting with the insufficiency of the text-books, in dealing with expanding and controversial problems in obstetrics and gynaecology.

R. M. Nadkarni

**PRACTICE OF FERTILITY CONTROL.** By Dr. S. K. Chaudhuri, M.B.B.S., Phd. MED., F.R.C.O.G. (Lond), F.A.C.S.

This book has filled a need for information on various aspects of fertility control in India. It is commendable that the

author has interested several international authorities to contribute to this monograph. In India, the problem of fertility control is so enormous that the more the number of scientists working in this field the better it is.

The book is arranged very well throughout—twenty-eight chapters in all. It covers a wide range of topics including history and development of fertility control, oral contraceptives, selection of contraceptives for the individual. These are a few interesting chapters amongst many. There is a great deal of documentation of facts—perhaps to make the book as complete as possible. The chapters on barrier contraceptive, intra-uterine devices are discussed personally by the author. Oral contraceptives are discussed by Prof. S. S. Ratnam and Dr. R. N. V. Prasad. Sequential, low-dosage and long-acting pills have been discussed in detail as also world-wide statistics on side-effects of the pill.

The post-graduate in family planning will find a wealth of information on definitions and failures in chapters on Natural methods of contraceptions and many other theoretical topics which are asked at the final D.F.P. examination.

The format of publication, however, is not very pleasing—perhaps to keep the cost low. One would have expected it in greater detail the hazards of overpopulation and also a little more statistical information which is lacking. The style of writing is a little dry and does not sustain the reader's interest throughout—as is essential for under-graduate medical students. A few more coloured diagrams would have made the book attractive.

I feel, that the author should be com-

plimented for producing what appears to be an exhaustive compendium of facts and figures on this important aspect of regulation of fertility in India. I have no doubt it will find a useful place in many libraries—personal, as well as institutional.

Mohini A. Garud

**PARENT-INFANT BONDING.** By Marshall H. Klaus and John H. Kennell 2nd Edition—The C. V. Mosby Company St. Louis-Toronto-London 1982.

The book is a refreshing adjunct to an obstetrician who generally tends to be more concerned about scientific aspects of mother care, and infant development and care. In the process he tends to go far away from interactions of human love and understanding which are fostered due to closeness between parents and their infant. The contents of the book give a new dimension to the responsibility of a doctor in maternal child health programmes.

Though the book is written by American authors there is a lot which, we in India, can learn and even adopt with some modifications. In fact, Indian practice of keeping away husbands during his wife's pregnancy and even for months after delivery, may have to be reconsidered from the point of parent-infant bonding.

The book consisting of 314 pages, carries one through seven chapters written with emphasis on the need for and the way to "Parent-Infant Bonding" right from the time of pregnancy to the establishment of relations between infants in premature nurseries and also babies with serious handicaps. Moreover, the

chapter on maternal behaviour in mammals is quite unique. The large reference list indicates the authenticity and the scientific approach with which this book on human love and understanding is written.

Obstetricians, and medical personnel involved in MCH programmes who al-

ways look beyond their mundane duties will find nothing but sheer joy in the book; those who have not yet gone outside their strict scientific realm in their practices, will be well stimulated and rewarded even if they read any single chapter.

Ajit Mehta