

## BOOK-REVIEW

**OBSTETRICS.** Edited by Sir Alec Turnbull and Geoffrey Chamberlain published by Churchill Livingstone Edinburgh/London/Melbourne and New York 1989.

The Science of Obstetrics has witnessed great advances in knowledge over the past three decades. The last decade has seen the application of Biometry and the evolution of methods of close surveillance of the foetus in utero. Foetal anomalies are being recognized, leading to the status of 'The foetus as a patient'. Indeed foetal therapy is today a reality. Advances in investigational facilities has led to the resolution of finer nuances in the recognition of Intra-uterine Foetal Growth Retardation. Perinatology has developed as a branch of obstetrics on the basis of the wide spectrum of information now available about the foetal status in utero.

The acceptance of Partography in monitoring of Labour, coupled with foetal monitoring with continuous electronic foetal heart rate monitoring and periodic assessment of its acid-base status has led to a wider acceptance of the concept of Active management of labour, effective augmentation of labour, and selective but timely obstetric interventions.

The new born has also fared better, as perinatologists and neonatologists have learnt a lot about foetal and neonatal physiology, neonatal disorders and evaluated many newer modalities of treatment.

Although many books have been written about specialized aspects of obstetrics, there is always a great need for a major work

covering the entire spectrum of current knowledge and practice in a comprehensive form.

This book edited by two eminent teachers of the subject, who are in active clinical practice, discusses the known facts, controversies, arguments and confusions prevailing in the subject matter, and provides guidelines to the consultant in the making of rational choices.

A distinguished team of authors have ably contributed towards the high standard of this present work on the subject.

The book spread over about 1200 pages has been divided into sections devoted to Basic Sciences, Prenatal Care, Assessment of foetal state in early and late pregnancy, Abnormal Pregnancy, Normal and Abnormal Labour, normal and abnormal puerperium, Normal and Abnormal New Born, assisted pregnancy, spacing of pregnancy, Medico-legal problems and vital statistics.

Of special interests are the chapters on biophysical diagnosis of foetal abnormalities, inborn errors of metabolism, haemoglobinopathies and foetal therapy. The chapter on coagulation defects in pregnancy has been lucidly presented. The chapter on physiology and biochemistry and clinical management of labour is of fundamental importance to all obstetricians.

I am certain that obstetrics edited by Sir Alec Turnbull and Geoffrey Chamberlain fills a long felt need of a comprehensive work on the subject which provides an update on the subject in a rational and balanc-

ed form. It will be of immense value to the young specialists, the post-graduates preparing for the qualifying examinations, the residents in training who are desirous of acquiring the recent trends in the management of obstetric problems, and the undergraduate student wishing to satisfy the need for added knowledge of the subject.

I do hope the publishers bring out this book in the form of a low printed Asian Edition to enable our students to have access to this excellent work on the subject.

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