

Book Review

Shaw's Textbook of Operative Gynaecology

Operative Gynecological Surgery is of considerable importance – and this text book for it has required clarity and an in-depth presentation. Chapter on 'Women's Health and Changing Role of Gynaec Surgery' is itself very significant since this progressive chain of thought is vital – both in precept and in practice. The chapters are rich in content – distinctly reflecting the approach to be taken and adhered to. To provide so much and more in 400 odd pages is highly impressive.

It is commendable that some important topics as endoscopy, among others are included. This is essential for the younger generation for whom any study without this inclusion would be incomplete. The book deals excellently with the changing professional scenario and 'consumer driven' whims and requirements.

The pictures and illustrations are distinct and clear with the intent to draw the attention of all-learners as well as experts. The eye-catching illustrations on tubal surgery are extremely illuminating, in fact one is convinced that they cannot be bettered. The authors have focused on many operations giving explicit details of these.

Because of the enormous variation in interests, aptitude and requirements, no book can cover every topic. This selective content could perhaps be a gold mine, a boon to readers who are looking for specific subjects. However, both in terms of science as well as knowledge of the developing world, readers would have enjoyed some references from their medical literature, including that of Shirodkar who gave the world 'Cerclage for cervical incompetence', a name that appears in any discussion of cerclage. This should not be interpreted erroneously but whenever young authors of future gynaecological operative books refer to this book, omission should not mislead them.

Overall, the information in this book is indispensable. Perhaps similar information could be found elsewhere, but this will be specially useful to those who are looking for authentic information in a nutshell. Besides, this book has the heritage tag of two illustrious names, the late Wilfred Shaw followed by the eminent John Hawkins. Clarity of thought and emphasis on accuracy of detail make this training manual a handy possession for those practicing general gynecological surgery. This book should become part of the compulsory reading for the novice and the expert.

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