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MEDICAL DISORDERS DURING PREGNANCY- 3Ro ED. 2000;

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Edited by : William M. Barron and MarshaleD. Lindheimer

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27M Block Market,
Greater Kailash II ..
New Delhi 110048.

The book is very comprehensive and has 31 contributors of various disciplines. Nineteen contributors are from USA, 8 from England, 2 from France and one each from Canada and Hongkong. There are 19 chapters, one appendix and index pages. A total of 646 pages gives the actual reading matter. Almost all medical disorders in pregnancy are covered quite exhaustively. The chapters are well arranged, and on first page of each chapter an outline of the contents is mentioned; this facilitates the reading. The number of references at the end of each capter is note-worthy.

Mention needs to be made of 3 chapters in particular. Chapter 7 on "Critical illiness" deals with problem in pregnancy which sometimes need intensive care in specialised units. Reading is not so easy to a practising Doctor and even for Professors in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. It will however service well particularly to the lntensi vist who helps in management of the case, Chapter 17 'Drug Abuse'. This chapter describes in detail the effects of substance abuse. In addition, it touches on the subj ect of violence and other abuse in pregnancy. I wish, included in this chapter, were the environmental hazards to pregnant women especially those working at places where-gases, fumes and chemical particulates are present in the air.

Next is chapter 18 the effect of embryonic and foetal exposure to X-Rays and Isotopes. The author removes several doubts, anxiety and apprehensions regarding the deleterious effects of radiation. In fact, lot of re-assurance is found and author disuades one from unnecessary scare and hasty terminations of pr~gnancy.

The book is recommended for library of post graduate students and as a reference possession to practicing Obstetrician and those internists treating medical disorders in pregnant women. The appendix on the effects of normal pregnancy on common bio-chemistry and haematology tests makes interesting contribution. Finally, it seems that, to make the book affordable to Indian and other Asian readers, the binding of the book is delicate.and the paper is of average quality. One must be, therefore, careful in using the book .... or else the pages may soon start flying out of the book !

Dr. Ajit C. Mehta

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