

BOOK REVIEWS

OBSTETRICAL ANESTHESIA: THE COMPLICATED PATIENT. FRANCIS JAMES III, M.D. AND A. SCOTT WHEELER, M.D. Philadelphia, F. A. Davis Company, 1982. Price \$40.00 U.S.

THE EIGHTEEN contributors to this book have set down descriptions and details of management of complicated obstetrical patients. They have reviewed the current obstetrical methods of management and related it to the clinical situation for the anaesthetist. In so doing, they have made a valuable contribution, particularly for anaesthetists who do not routinely spend a great deal of time with obstetrical patients.

The book begins with foetal monitoring, a rapidly expanding area, and describes some of the current problems with cardiotacometry and other methods of foetal surveillance. This is an area that can be very confusing for the uninitiated and this book serves as a useful summary of current thinking. The chapters on maternal disease and their potential for anaesthetic problems are also well done. Some of the suggested methods of management might be considered controversial but each contributor has referenced his ideas well and for the most part justifies his or her choice of management.

While there are many contributors to this book, the editors have placed the same format on each chapter so the book is cohesive. The diagrams and tables are pertinent and not excessive. The references and index are also put together in an organized manner.

The moderate price of this book (by today's standards) is an extra advantage and I would highly recommend this book to all clinical anaesthetists who participate in the management of obstetrical patients.

DIANE BIEHL

PAEDIATRIC ANAESTHESIA. HAROLD T. DAVENPORT. Baltimore, University Park Press, Third Edition, 1982. Price \$29.95 (U.S.).

IT IS A pleasure to welcome the return of Dr. Davenport, formerly of Montreal and Vancouver, in the new edition of his useful text.

Although the first edition appeared in 1967, this 1982 third edition remains up-to-date and topical in its treatment of newer techniques like laser surgery.

A wealth of practical detail is provided on basic anaesthesia for newborns and common operations. Rare conditions are mentioned briefly but in case further reading is required, references are given, though several names are misspelt.

This edition should be essential reading for all residents in anaesthesia, and for anyone else who would like to refresh his knowledge of the practical aspects of anaesthesia for children.

I.A.J. SLOAN