CHEMICAL CONTRACEPTION

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JOHN P. BENNETT

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**John P. Bennett is a Corporate
Director and head of a research unit
of the Syntex Corporation, Palo Alto,
California. He was formerly head of
the Reproductive Physiology
Department of Syntex Research.**

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To my wife, Margaret

The boldly prudent, the thriftily selfish and ambitious, the imaginative and poetic, the lovers of money and solid comfort, the worshippers of success, of art, and of love, will all oppose to the force of life, the device of sterility.

—George Bernard Shaw, *Man and Superman*

FOREWORD

The publication of *Physiology of Reproduction* by F. H. A. Marshall in 1910, and the serious challenge to American law in 1913 by Margaret Sanger, a daring social reformer who advocated birth control, marked in our time two new world outlooks. One was to put the physiology of reproduction in a respected position for scientific inquiry, and the other was to push forward the importance of birth control for the emancipation of women and for family planning. During the past 60 years, there has been much progress in the elucidation of the mechanisms of reproduction, especially in connection with the endocrine system, and during the past 20 years the control of population growth for our own survival has been very much stressed. Although various anecdotal contraceptive methods had been described since antiquity, an effective method had never been achieved that could be used with little or no association with the sexual act. Thus, the development of an oral contraceptive pill by the late Gregory Pincus and myself, with the endeavor of many people from 1951 to 1960, again marked a new advance in the application of academic knowledge to the welfare of the human race. The author of the present volume was trained at Cambridge University in academic research, and now is working for a well-known pharmaceutical house in America.

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FOREWORD

He has followed the trend of applying academic knowledge and has written a comprehensive survey of chemical means used for contraceptive purposes. This book has not only brought our knowledge concerning the various chemical means for control of fertility up-to-date, but has also pointed out many avenues for further research to improve contraceptive measures. It will be a very useful book not only for the research workers and the medical profession dealing with fertility regulation, but also for the government agencies and philanthropic institutions responsible for the support of research and development for the control of population growth.

M. C. Chang, Ph.D., Sc.D. (Cambridge)

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