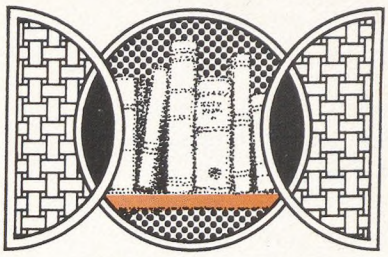
Book Reviews



Obstetrics and Gynecology Annual: 1977 (vol 6). *Ralph M. Wynn (ed). Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1977, 403 pp., $27.75.*

As the title implies, this book offers an update of medical knowledge in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. Dr. Wynn, the editor, has marshalled a distinguished group of academicians and leaders in the field. Their efforts can lead to many hours of fascinating reading. This book is not a dry reference text. For example, it contains a philosophical dissertation on bioethical problems by André Hellegers, followed by an understandable discourse on placental nucleic acid metabolism by T. Terry Hayashi. Ian Donald gives us a five-year update on Sonar (ultrasound), providing a clear picture of its uses and also its limitations. Most chapters are written for general coverage, but also include extensive references for readers with the need to know more.

This book serves its purpose well in describing recent developments. Michael Thiery and Jean-Jacques Amy have created a very understandable update on the use of prostaglandins in spontaneous and induced labor. Our understanding of hyaline membrane disease and its etiology and treatment is definitely increased by the review of D. Vidyasagar and Rama Bhat. They make a difficult subject easy to understand. I was particularly impressed by R. J. Baker's discussion of the evaluation and management of critically ill patients. It serves as a timely review of how to approach a crisis situation on obstetrics and gynecology. Many other subjects are equally well discussed. Thus, *Obstetrics and Gynecology Annual* can be a stimulating review for the busy family physician who wants to know about the state of art in this field.

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Patient Education in the Primary Care Setting. *Bruce F. Currie, Mary Nell Currie (eds). (Available from:) Office of Patient Education, Department of Family Medicine and Practice, University of Wisconsin Medical School, 777 South Mills Street, Madison, WI 53715, 1977, 184 pp., $6.00 (paper).*

This inexpensive volume of the proceedings of the conference on Patient Education in the Primary Care Setting held in Madison, Wisconsin, April 19-20, 1977, consists principally of short reports from practitioners on their work, along with a few contributions from academe and the national scene. I

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found the practitioners' work particularly useful because our own recent efforts to create patient (we call them "people's") education programs in a new family practice residency prove it a subject much harder to practice than preach. These conference proceedings are particularly valuable for and well suited to the description of actual practice experience, although the theoretical papers are also helpful, especially Greene's on research and evaluation, despite its irregular classification of levels of evaluation.

The book is not a text. There is no guiding theoretical framework, no coverage of certain subjects (teaching of self-care skills), and no index. It is full of ideas: health hazard histories and treatment protocols ("Does your family use its seat belts?" with guides to car safety for infants and children); waiting-room lending libraries for patients (a useful appendix would have been a list of titles); and properly written prescription information for patients. There is some of the good detail that practitioners need and is so often omitted from formal papers ("Mark the person's name (and your phone number) on the handout to make it harder to throw it away").

There is even a new aspect of health care to be thought about, anticipatory care. As described by Karen Pridham it consists of conscious efforts using well-described strategies to anticipate and respond to ordinary and extraordinary circumstances which pose a threat to the patients' health. Some of this is old (preparation for child birth) or ordinary (encouraging dietary improvements), but the concept is well developed; pragmatic strategies for implementing it are given, and its importance is enormous in this age of life-style change and preventive medicine.

Health-care workers actually engaged in patient education will find this book helpful and easy to read. I recommend it to them.

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Watson-Jones' Fractures and Joint Injuries (2 vols, ed 5). *J. N. Wilson (ed). Churchill Livingstone, Longman, Inc., New York, 1976, 1,372 pp., $95.00.*

The long-awaited revision of the Watson-Jones classic work is now out in a fifth edition. Sir Reginald Watson-Jones, now dead, participated for five years in the revision, and the hand of the master orthopedist-teacher-writer is definitely in this edition. The necessary updating has been done by J. N. Wilson, ChM, FRCS.

The conservative wisdom of Watson-Jones has been maintained. There is emphasis upon the assistance of natural methods of healing rather than the sacrifice of these in the interest of more rapid procedures. Even though the approach is very scholarly and includes subjects from plastering to Poiseuille's law, this edition is nonetheless practical and readable. It is logically organized so that one can easily look up needed material. There is perhaps more emphasis on operative orthopedics than is suitable for the family physician. The photographs and illustrations are of excellent quality and very helpful. New chapters have been added on

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systemic effect of injury, on early management of the injured, on head injuries, on visceral injuries of the chest and abdomen, on fractures in children, and on spinal injuries.

This is a comprehensive working textbook that will be useful both in the office and in the Emergency Department. I feel it will be valuable for all levels of health-care professionals, including allied health-care team members, medical students, family practice residents, practicing family physicians, and orthopedists.

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Moral Problems in Medicine. *Samuel Gorovitz, Andrew L. Jameton, Ruth Macklin, John M. O'Connor, Eugene V. Perrin, Beverly Page St. Clair, and Susan Sherwin (eds). Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1976, 540 pp., $11.50.*

I received this book with excitement and read it with an anticipation that some of the questions of ethical concern and confusion might be answered.

I found instead a very interesting book that was better at asking questions than in giving answers. The book has 540 pages of excerpts or entire passages from famous philosophers, from editorials, from letters to editors, from debates, from treatises.

The book begins with portions from Immanuel Kant's *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals,* John Stuart Mill's *Utilitarianism,* and Jean-Paul Sartre's *Existentialism* as examples of major ethical theories.

It then proceeds to chapters on "Moral Problems in the Physician-Patient Relationship." These include the physician-patient relationship, confidentiality, truth telling, informed consent and coercion, and paternalism. The next division of the book is entitled "Moral Problems Concerning Life and Death," which includes discussion of killing and letting die, abortion, birth defects, and death and dignity. The last chapter, "Moral Problems on a Social Scale," includes sections on the nature of social justice, the right to health care, medical resources as commodities, and allocation of scarce medical resources.

The entire book is thought provoking, with presentations of both sides of almost every ethical decision we as physicians have had to make. It is somewhat comforting to know that the authors of the quoted material and the editors of the book have had as much difficulty in their decisions as we physicians have had in ours, even when theirs were made in the relative quiet and security of philosophical discussion.

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Growth and Its Disorders (vol 15). *David W. Smith. W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1977, 155 pp., $13.50.*

Another superb volume has been added to Saunders' series, "Major

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Problems in Clinical Pediatrics." Dr. David W. Smith, the famous author of *Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation,* has put together another classic volume, this time dealing with growth disorders in children. This book is a necessity for every family physician's reference shelf.

In a thorough and organized manner, Smith covers in detail the many problems of growth in children. As a foundation, he reviews in the first chapter the basic mechanisms and factors in growth from conception and intrauterine life to adulthood. In the second chapter he discusses the standards and methods of measurement of children and their growth. This discussion is followed by 35 pages of charts and graphs displaying these standards, ranging from fetal head growth to subscapular skin thickness. The third and eighth chapters provide the framework for classification and diagnosis of growth deficiency and growth excess, and in the remaining chapters each cause of abnormal growth is described in Smith's typically thorough and detailed style.

Even though this book is exhaustive in its content and is intended as a reference book on disorders of growth, the basic material and classification framework presented in the first, third, and eighth chapters would be excellent reading for any family physician or pediatrician desiring to review this topic. This volume is highly recommended.

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One Child By Choice. *Sharryl Hawke and David Knox. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1977, 233 pp., $8.95 (hardcover), $3.95 (paper).*

"The time for the one-child family has come," or so say the authors, both parents of single children. Seventy-one percent of Americans, according to a Gallup poll, think that being an only child is a disadvantage; so Ms. Hawke and Dr. Knox proceed, not without a hint of paranoia, to try to counter that opinion. They provide their own data based on a questionnaire given to 750 nonrandomly selected individuals, disproportionately white and professional. As an example of how not to conduct a questionnaire, their study is outstanding, and if the book has any contribution to make to medical education it could be in a class on research techniques. They do discuss some aspects of childrearing which may be of interest to some parents.

The book is readable, although devoid of humor. There are no illustrations, but 39 pages of tables covering the questionnaire data. Less than 25 percent of the people they interviewed "chose" to have a single child, while most of the others had only one because of medical reasons, marital problems, or relative infertility. The majority seem to have had the decision made for them.

The book may be of interest to a few parents, particularly those who feel guilty about being parents of an only child. It doesn't have much to contribute to medical education.

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