

REVIEW

Obstetrics by J. M. Holmes, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.O.G., Bailliere A. Davis & Co., Philadelphia. Pp. 240, 97, Illustrations. Price 52 Sh.

As mentioned in the Publisher's Note, this book is one of a series of small text-books known as concise Medical Text books. It is primarily meant to aid the undergraduate student who is preparing for the graduation examination. It is, therefore, obvious that it cannot replace the standard text books. As a matter of fact, it cannot serve as a text book even for a pupil midwife.

The merit of the book is that the student can very quickly revise the subject of Obstetrics because it presents in a very concise form most of the essential and important details. Many of the recent advances, like the Vacuum Extractor, are included.

The chapter on Psychiatry gives a clear picture about the various psychological problems associated with Obstetrics and therefore would be quite useful to the student who has no time to consult a separate book on psychiatry.

Painless labour has become such a vast subject today that the short chapter on "Anaesthesia in Labour" does not serve much purpose. Instead, the space could have been utilised to describe some more details about Obstetric operations. After reading the book, one would be surprised at the

amount of information which is packed in such a small looking volume. I am sure, this is a useful addition to the series of concise Medical Text books.

T. P. S.

Forceps Deliveries by Edward H. Dennen M.D. Ed. 2, Publishers F. A. Davis & Co., Philadelphia. Pp. 240, 97 illustrations. Price 52 S

An experienced obstetrician and teacher in obstetrics has brought out the second edition of his well known monograph on Forceps Deliveries. The author describes different types of forceps that are commonly used in obstetric practice today, giving special indications for the use of each one. He emphasises the advantages and disadvantages of a particular instrument in different situations. Detailed instructions for the use of each instrument are given and illustrated with excellent drawings. These should serve of great practical value to beginners of obstetric practice. Although one may consider some of the procedures described in the book as hazardous and outmoded in present day obstetric practice, the book on the whole is very instructive and practical. The book is a notable contribution to the subject of operative obstetrics and should be on the shelf of post-graduate students and practitioners of obstetrics.

B. V. A.

OBITUARY

Dr. Professor Hideo Yagi

It is with deep sense of loss that we note the death of Prof. Dr. Hideo Yagi on 6th May 1964. In his demise the obstetric world at large and Japan in

particular has lost a renowned obstetrician and gynaecologist.

Born in Nishinomiya City in Japan, Dr. Yagi graduated at the Kyoto Uni-

versity Medical School in 1924. After graduation he worked as an assistant to Prof. Okabayashi. He shares with Prof. Okabayashi the credit for the development and perfection of the operative technique for the Radical Abdominal Hysterectomy for Carcinoma of Cervix which came to be known as the "Okabayashi Operation". It was Dr. Yagi who introduced this operation to the world of gynaecologists. Furthermore, he popularised the technique by his frequent articles and papers on the subject at the International Conferences. Dr. Yagi has the unique distinction that a record number, i.e. 2,000, such operations were carried out in the department of gynaecology, Okayama Medical School, under his able directorship, more than half of which were performed personally by him. Later on for a period of thirty years from 1934 he contributed to teaching as the Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Okayama University Hospital and Medical School of which he finally became the Director. Recently, in 1958, he was honoured with the Presidentship of Okayama University and the Kawasaki Cancer Institute.

Among his attachments to multifarious societies were his membership of the Executive Board of the Japanese Obstetric and Gynaecological Society since 1934, the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology since 1954, and the Asiatic Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Others to mention are the Japanese Cancer Association and the Japanese Society of Allergy.

Dr. Yagi's Honorary Membership of the Okayama University Medical School and the Japanese Obstetric

and Gynaecological Society were his outstanding achievements.

His distinguished Academic Honours are borne out by his Presidentship of the Federation of Japanese Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies, the Asiatic Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the Okayama Cancer Association and the Japanese Cancer Association.

However, his interests were not limited to Obstetrics and Gynaecology alone. He was the President of the International Esperanto Association. Being the Vice-President of the International Federation of the Rotary Club he was a keen Rotarian. In addition he was also the President of the Okayama UNESCO Association and the Okayama Japanese-German Association.

Speaking locally, the obstetricians and gynaecologists of Bombay had the opportunity to attend his learned Oration on the occasion of the First Dr. Dosibai J. R. Dadabhoy Bombay Obstetric & Gynaecological Society Silver Jubilee Oration in January 1962, the subject being "Okabayashi Operation".

Foreign Obstetricians and Gynaecologists visiting Japan have been overwhelmed by his truly oriental hospitality. A very warm and a versatile personality, he was a linguist in the sense that he could speak both English and German fluently which is uncommon in Japan. Widely travelled and extremely co-operative, Dr. Yagi undoubtedly secured for the Japanese obstetrics and gynaecology a distinct place of its own in the sphere of International Obstetrics. May his soul rest in peace.

V. N. P.