

BOOK REVIEW

Asphyxia Neonatorum: Its Relation to the Fetal Blood, Circulation and Respiration and Its Effects upon the Brain. BY WILLIAM F. WINDLE, PH.D., Sc.D., Professor of Anatomy, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Publication Number 52, American Lecture Series, A Monograph in American Lectures in Physiology. EDITED BY ROBERT F. PITTS, M.D., PH.D., Professor of Physiology, Syracuse University School of Medicine, Syracuse, New York. Price \$2.00. Pp. 70. Springfield, Illinois, Charles C Thomas, 1950.

In his preface the author explains that this book is a monograph briefly covering certain physiological aspects of the newborn infant and represents the revised text of several lectures in an elective course in "Developmental Physiology" at the University of Pennsylvania. With this in mind one is immediately oriented to the author's provocative style and can recapture a student's enjoyment of a good set of lectures.

Data offered on the blood of the fetus and newborn sharpens one's critical approach to this subject. The

effect on the newborn when the cord is clamped seems to be of particular interest to the author. He promotes his viewpoint obliquely with some conviction. The discussion of fetal circulation through the heart and through the lungs may tend to settle persistent controversy in reference to this speculative problem. Fetal respiratory activity is another controversial subject which is discussed definitely because of studies done by the author. However, he does not exploit the valuable practical implications of his findings. The book contains an illuminating evaluation of the factors influencing fetal resistance to anoxia. The author concludes with an outline of his own interesting studies on asphyxia neonatorum in guinea pigs.

This monograph is recommended reading for residents in anesthesiology or in obstetrics who are approaching examination by their respective Boards. It contains valuable information of interest to practicing obstetricians or anesthesiologists and is therefore worth possessing for reference.

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