

of paraldehyde receives undue attention. There is a long discussion of barbiturates but no mention of the many new "tranquilizing" drugs. Although Doctor Greenhill recognizes the usefulness of the anesthesiologists in spinal anesthesia, he is obviously partial to local anesthesia, and probably rightly so, in view of a lack of interested and capable obstetric anesthesiologists. However, I cannot agree with some of the sixteen advantages listed for local infiltrations and pudendal block, having seen convulsions following pudendal block from overdose of procaine, a maternal death from aspiration of vomitus in a fully conscious patient, and severely asphyxiated infants occurring in three or four deliveries out of each hundred under this type of anesthesia. The only three possible drawbacks are listed as broken needle, intravenous injection and idiosyncrasy.

The recommendation that it is inadvisable to rely on a mixture of a narcotic and its antagonist is good.

In discussion of immediate care of the child, it is recommended that all babies be given the maximum of placental blood. This advice is seriously open to question, especially in premature infants. The only mention of ventilation or resuscitation is in the chapter on pathology of the newborn, in which pneumothorax is discussed.

The chapter on "Physiology and Biochemistry of the Placenta" by Dr. Ernest W. Page is up-to-date and well documented. Dr. Clement A. Smith's book, "The Physiology of the Newborn Infant," Third Edition, provides the contents of the chapter on that subject.

Interested medical students should be encouraged to consult the current literature so as to follow the fast-moving subsequent developments in the perinatal field.

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Fluid Balance in Obstetrics. A Critical Review. BY PHILIP RHODES, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. (ENG.), M.R.C.O.G., Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to St. Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth Hospital and the General Lying-in Hospital, London and Horsham Hospital. Cloth. \$5.75. Pp. 165, with 12 tables and 5 appendices.

Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. Distributed by the Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois St., Chicago, 1960.

This is a scholarly, well-documented monograph and is written in simple easily understandable language by one of the leading British obstetricians. It covers most of the practical and many of the theoretical aspects of fluid and electrolyte balance in normal and abnormal obstetrics. The book starts out with a discussion of the basic physical and physicochemical background of fluid and electrolyte balance. It then surveys fluid and electrolyte balance of the non-pregnant woman, and that of the woman during normal pregnancy. Following this is a discussion of the water and salt depletion syndrome encountered in pregnancy, and some special problems of fluid and electrolyte equilibrium encountered in pregnancy complicated by various pathological processes. Hemorrhages and acute adrenocortical insufficiency encountered in obstetrics are also reviewed. The book concludes with consideration of fluid and electrolyte changes occurring during normal and prolonged labor, Caesarean section and the puerperium. There are many useful tables in this little book. The excellent bibliography offers a good starting point for those who would like to delve further into the problems discussed. This monograph should make a useful addendum to the library of those interested in obstetrics and obstetrical anesthesia.

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Management of the Patient with Headache.

BY PERRY S. MACNEAL, M.D., F.A.C.P., Physician to Pennsylvania Hospital and Benjamin Franklin Clinic, Philadelphia; Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Jefferson Medical College; BERNARD J. ALPERS, M.D., Sc.D. (MED.), F.A.C.P., Professor and Head of the Department of Neurology, Jefferson Medical College, AND WILLIAM R. O'BRIEN, M.D., F.A.P.A., Psychiatrist and Head of the Department of Psychiatry, Pennsylvania Hospital; Instructor in Psychiatry, Jefferson Medical College. Cloth. \$3.50. Pp. 145, with no illustrations. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1957.