
Even though the Atlas of Pelvic Surgery is not written for infertility surgery, it is important to review significant new publications dealing with the surgery of our specialty.

Dr. Wheeless has done an excellent job in putting together an atlas of pelvic surgery that is both comprehensive and simple. The illustrations by John Parker are clear, precise, and easy to follow. Prior to each technical description of a procedure, there is a short commentary on the procedure, the pathophysiologic changes, and the points of caution. These sections are well written, concise, and complete. The technical descriptions are easy to read and coordinate well with the corresponding illustration.

One significant omission is a description of hysteroscopy, a procedure of increasing use today. In addition, there is only one metroplasty technique included in the atlas. There is extensive coverage of laparoscopy and its various technical possibilities; this is understandable and helpful, based on Dr. Wheeless' known interest in and experience with laparoscopy.

In summary, this is a good new atlas that is well illustrated and well written. It is put together in a fashion different from previous atlases, and its format makes for enjoyable reading.

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Dr. Cryer goes to some pains telling us in the preface that "this is not a textbook of endocrinology" and therapeutics have been entirely excluded. A very brief glimpse of endocrine pathophysiology is then presented, followed by a series of chapters on diagnosis. The book is small (less than 200 pages), quite compact, and possibly could be utilized as a small reference manual. It suffers, however, very serious deficiencies. Most chapters are so superficial that truly adequate discussions are muted or nonexistent. The chapter on competitive binding analysis is a scant 5 pages, and yet most of modern endocrinology is based on the interpretation of competitive binding analysis information. The problems and pitfalls of radioimmunoassay are not at all discussed. The chapter on thyroid function tests has considerably more flesh and a good discussion of normal thyroid physiology; but chapters on the adrenal cortex and calcium parathyroid metabolism—and others—suffer from the fact that the book was published in 1976. As an example, diagnosis of various adrenal disorders utilizing urinary free cortisol and ACTH measurements is not at all mentioned in the adrenal chapter, while there is virtually no discussion of the vitamin D metabolites possibly responsible for some of the clinical syndromes in the chapter on calcium vitamin D metabolism.

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It is unusual today to see a book other than a monograph written by one person. Conception in the Human Female is written solely by Dr. Robert G. Edwards. Its 1000-plus pages cover every aspect of reproductive physiology. The book is a masterpiece and a credit to its author.

Dr. Edwards begins with sexual differentiation and puberty, proceeds through the neuroendocrine and ovarian aspects of reproduction, discusses the female reproductive tract and sexuality, concentrates on his own area of expertise, fertilization, the blastocyst, and implantation, and concludes with aging, menopause, and the ethics of human conception. It is basically a book of physiology and refers to the abundant literature of animal reproductive physiology. However, Dr. Edwards uses all the human data available and includes clinical applications, diagnosis, and therapy in each chapter where it is appropriate.
The marvel of the book is its authorship by one person. Hundreds of references are used in each chapter. The book is well written and easy to read, unlike many books that have so many references and points to make. The paragraphs and sections flow from one to the other despite the mammoth amount of information from all those references. The references are the latest available, the majority having been published after 1974 and some even in the year of this book’s publication. Every topic is up-to-date. The tables and figures, although mostly from other sources, are well selected and illustrative.

I feel privileged to own and to have reviewed this book. It is truly unique and a must for anyone interested in reproductive physiology.

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This handbook represents the fifth in a series of medical texts prepared by the International Planned Parenthood Federation since 1962. It is the second to be published under the title Family Planning Handbook for Doctors. The title is, however, somewhat misleading. While many doctors will find its contents to be of considerable use, many other allied health professionals in the field of family planning may find this to be the single most useful text they could purchase. Gynecologic nurse practitioners, assistants in family planning clinics, and nonmedical professionals in social service areas will find the information to be most useful. The text is straightforward and highlights the major points necessary for understanding the basic concepts of family planning.

However, not all physicians will find this book helpful. For most obstetricians and gynecologists, the material is too simple and superficial. However, physicians in other medical specialties may find this book to be a valuable reference text. Any physician entering the area of family planning for the first time may consider this to be a most useful reference. Medical students also should find this handbook helpful because of its brief summaries of the topics in the field of family planning.

Two unusual aspects of this book should be noted. First, although the book was prepared by a committee, it has been able to overcome the usual disjointed and disorienting style so often found in books and papers written in such a way. The literary style throughout is rather uniform and flows from one section to another without appreciable gaps.

Second, the volume is surprisingly current. So often textbooks and handbooks have been prepared two or three years before publication. Throughout the body of this volume the information is appropriate for 1980. Even more surprising, there is a “Supplement to the Family Planning Handbook for Doctors” accompanying the volume, which includes a summary of the latest thoughts of the International Medical Advisory Panel as of October 1980. We should all strive for such prompt publication and updating of textbook material.

The handbook covers all major areas of family planning. Although the emphasis is on contraception and methods of limiting family size, short sections on infertility investigation, genetic studies, and sexually transmitted diseases also are presented. Unfortunately, some topics are covered too briefly. However, as mentioned above, this may be the most appropriate format for a quick reference book for someone not specializing in the field of family planning.

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In this volume, the author endeavors to summarize all of the relevant reports on the title subject for the period of time between July 1978 and September 1979. This broad field is covered very well; 1100 individual references and review papers are cited. There are sections in which the reading is difficult, but such difficulty is expected in a work attempting to cover such a diverse field.
Both clinical and experimental reports are included, primarily on man and secondarily covering lower vertebrates.

This book should be included in the library of anyone working in this field. It is my hope that the author will periodically update this volume.

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This second edition appears six years after the original contribution by these distinguished teachers and surgeons. The basic format is unchanged, the text being divided into 11 chapters written by 13 collaborating authors. All of the physician-authors have had a major portion of their education at the Johns Hopkins Medical School. As in any text by several authors, some of the chapters are uneven and show unfortunate overlapping and redundancy. The text continues to stress basic gynecologic surgical technique and presents points of potential error and means for their immediate correction. Much of the content remains the same as in the first edition. To some readers, the preoperative hospital arrangements and preparation of the patient with appropriate positioning on the operating table, and so forth, will be redundant. Duplication in discussions of types of incisions, techniques of abdominal exploration, and vaginal repair for urinary incontinence is unfortunate. Surgical illustrations and discussions of various outdated procedures such as the Manchester, Watkins, Richardson, and Le Fort operations, although of historical interest, add little to the modern management of pelvic relaxation.

The new edition has been broadened to include diagnosis and surgical management of ovarian carcinoma. A chapter on endoscopy, which is playing a increasingly important role in diagnosis and treatment within our specialty, is a welcome addition. The chapter on surgical management of posthysterectomy prolapse of the vaginal vault is enlarged with a description of an abdominal technique for repair. The absence of description of vaginal procedures for this condition is a glaring deficiency.

The chapters on urinary stress incontinence and vaginal fistula by Dr. Ridley are particularly well done, and they reflect his wide experience, superb surgical judgment, and excellent technique. The surgical management of congenital anomalies of the uterus and vagina is well illustrated and includes a complete description of the technique and an excellent bibliography. The two chapters by Dr. Rutlege on radical hysterectomy and pelvic exenteration give an up-to-date, detailed, and complete review of these procedures.

The placement of bibliographies at the end of each chapter and a revised recapitulation of potential errors in each chapter are worthwhile.

Dr. Ridley deserves credit for conceiving the idea of developing an innovative and pragmatic approach to pelvic surgery, together with measures to prevent complications. But if one has a copy of the first edition, I doubt that the second edition has enough new material to warrant its purchase. Students, residents, and the practicing gynecologists who have not obtained the first edition will find valuable information in this improved text.

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This book contains the proceedings of the International Symposium of the Section of Gynecopathology of the German Society of Pathology, which met in Heidelberg in 1979. Forty-six contributors in the fields of gynecology and pathology have joined in compiling 29 abstracts and articles addressing the central theme: "The Effects of Exogenous Hormones on the Female Genital Tract." The majority of the participants were from West Germany, but there were other invited authorities from the United States, Canada, Israel, Sweden, Spain, France, Austria, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, Portugal, Switzerland, and Hungary.
The papers are organized into three main sections: estrogens, gestogens, and combined hormones. Each section contains concise papers that address topics including clinical effect, teratogenicity, and mechanism of normal action. Morphologic changes studied by routine histology and scanning electron microscopy are particularly interesting. The investigators present additional information on the oncologic potential of these hormones when administered either alone or in combination. The last four chapters of the book discuss the effect of exogenous hormones on the mammary glands.

This book should appeal to the reader who is interested in hormonal effects on female genital structures. Clinicians will enjoy, particularly, the papers that review the clinical effects of exogenous hormones.

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This authoritative text can be profitably read by any physician seriously interested in a better understanding of the lower urinary tract in the female patient. The text is based on presentations in a postgraduate course offered by the editor. The text is divided into four parts: anatomy, diagnostic procedures, pathology, and surgical treatment of the urinary tract, as they relate to urinary incontinence. The appendix contains important definitions, pharmacologic actions of specific groups of drugs, and examples of data recording forms in Spanish and English.

As is the case with most multiauthored texts, the organization and approach of the various chapters tend to be uneven, and the emphasis given to certain topics is not always proportional to their application in day-to-day practice.

The first section describes the normal urinary tract with a concise but adequate review of the embryology and anatomy of the female bladder and urethra. The section on the neurology of micturition, written by a recognized authority in the field, sets an excellent foundation for the subsequent discussion of neurologic control of micturition.

In the second section, the evaluation of the lower urinary tract, proper perspective of the medical history, and the general and neurologically oriented physical examination are described. These are presented in a simplified form, and their understanding will be well within the grasp of the practicing gynecourologist.

Dr. Stuart Stanton artfully discusses the controversial preoperative evaluation of the incontinent patient. He properly emphasizes that the final decisions may depend on the clinician's view of urinary incontinence, in addition to the finances, equipment, and manpower available to perform the investigation. A concise and well-written review of cystometry with urethral pressure profiles, emphasizing the dynamic investigation of the bladder and urethra, is written by Dr. Emil Tanagho. Another strong chapter by Dr. Tanagho reviews the normal voiding act, including flow rates and effects of sphincteric activity. The various types of normal voiding and detrusor contraction are discussed in a clear summary with appropriate diagrammatic reproductions from urodynamic studies. Drs. C. Paul Hodgkinson and Donald Ostergard combine their efforts in a review of normal cystometry, emphasizing its importance in depicting the uninhibited detrusor contraction.

The third section covers the pathology and treatment of lower urinary tract abnormalities. Of some disappointment is the superficial attention given to urinary fistulas. There is essentially no discussion of medical or surgical conditions that lend themselves to fistula formation, nor is there any discussion about the preventive measures before or at operation. Appropriate emphasis should be given to the proper timing of operations and to the factors that enter into the success or failure of fistula repair. The bibliography is incomplete and outdated. The chapter on urethral diverticula is also too abbreviated to review the subject adequately and is coupled with an outdated and incomplete bibliography.

Dr. Stuart Stanton clearly defines the unstable bladder, suggesting possible causes and various clinical presentations of this poorly understood condition. He properly emphasizes that no particular symptom clearly characterizes the clinical presentation of the unstable bladder and that the therapy of this condition is unpredictable and
varies from drug management to bladder drill and biofeedback, with surgery as the last mode of therapy.

Dr. Charles Stone adds a valuable segment covering the psychiatric aspects of lower urinary tract dysfunction with a short historical review of the psychiatric literature.

In the last segment, Drs. Hodgkinson and Ostergard limit their discussion to the Burch and round ligament suspension for the surgical treatment of genuine stress incontinence. They further discuss operations in patients with previous failure, emphasizing the pragmatic and psychologic causes for failure. Dr. Tanagho adds a valuable review of the retropubic procedure, which he believes is the appropriate physiologic approach to correction of urinary incontinence. He reviews the pressure response in the urethra due to the stretching and admits that it is difficult to reconcile this obvious functional urethral improvement with reports stating that no change occurs in urethral pressure profile after operation.

In short, I think the authors have done a very good job in meeting their objectives. I would highly recommend Gynecologic Urology and Urodynamics: Theory and Practice as an excellent introductory source for further understanding of the complexities of urinary control.

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Fifteen years ago Mitsunao Kobayashi, a bright young obstetrician-gynecologist from Japan, arrived at Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. Professor Louis Hellman, intrigued by Scotland's Ian Donald and his pioneering work in Ob-Gyn ultrasonography, directed Dr. Kobayashi to establish an ultrasonic laboratory. A diligent perfectionist, Kobayashi became the ultimate bi-stable technologist—a veritable world-class "supertech." Aided by his avocation, photography, and by his wife, Hisako, an accomplished artist, Kobayashi published Atlas of Ultrasonography in Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1974. That work remains the classic atlas for bi-stable B-Scan Ob-Gyn ultrasonography. Many ultrasonographers in this country started their work with a B-Scan instrument, the Kobayashi atlas, and little more.

Technological advances, namely, the advent of gray scale and real time instruments, have provided the mandate for this second edition. Unlike most second editions, this is a totally new and different book. Gone are the useful tables of gestational sac sizes, fetal crown-rump lengths, and biparietal diameters expected at various gestational ages. Failure of gestational sac growth is illustrated, but no mention is made of total intrauterine volume measurements, nor of the concepts of intrauterine growth retardation so prominently featured in current American ultrasonography texts. More detail of pelvic anatomy and of fetal anatomy would be welcome in future editions, as would an up-to-date bibliography.

This is a basic book that will be of most value to ultrasound technicians and to the physician who is attempting to learn the fundamentals of ultrasound scanning in obstetrics and gynecology. It contains nearly 700 white on black sonograms beautifully hand-drawn in exquisite detail by Hisako Kobayashi, wife of the author. Clearly labeled line drawings and diagrams are liberally employed. A concise interpretation of each scan is provided. The scans and the artwork are truly exceptional. The Kobayashi's have produced another classic.

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This volume is composed of the Proceedings of the Workshop on Immunology in Human Reproduction that was held at the University of Newcastle, Australia, in July 1977. The Workshop was the latest in a series of meetings focusing attention on immunology of reproduction. Three International Symposia have been held in Bulgaria in 1967, 1971, and 1975. Meetings in Geneva in 1968 and in Cambridge in
1973 were sponsored by the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Two International Congresses in Immunology have had workshops on this topic, and it has featured in a number of international meetings dealing with reproduction. In addition, the World Health Organization's Task Force on Immunological Methods of Fertility Regulation has held two workshops in Aarhus, Denmark.

Recent encouraging results in the development of a reversible vaccine against pregnancy have aroused interest in a method of population control which could make an important contribution to fertility regulation in many areas of the world where adequate medical supervision is unobtainable.

It was against this background of an increasing interest in the possibility of controlling fertility by immunological means that this Workshop was arranged. The proceedings represent an important step in the progress towards the development of a safe and reliable means of immunological control of fertility.

—from the Foreword


This book is not easy to read, and it does not seem to direct itself to any particular audience. The editor in his preface indicates that it was originally planned to include a series of representative views concerning issues of current relevance to clinical endocrinology but that after completion the final purpose was to provide the academician, the researcher, and the clinician with a volume that would provide access to those topics that enjoy a high frequency of current journal coverage as well as clinical interest.

The result of this endeavor has been a book of 11 chapters, the first three being a rather elaborate review by two groups of investigators in neuroendocrinology and the pharmacologic perturbations related to neuroendocrine function in experimental animals and to some extent in humans. This section represents a good source of reference material for those clinical endocrinologists interested in digging out experimental work that might provide explanations for clinically observed phenomena. This section also exhibits fewer typographical errors than are observed in the remainder of the book.

In a chapter on pharmacodynamics in gynecological endocrinology, the authors ably present their personal views of the subject as they might present them to medical students or the generalist. They give standard information available in most textbooks on this subject. Robert Henkin has written a novel chapter on the sensory manifestations of altered endocrine function, relying primarily on his own work in a variety of endocrinopathies, including the hyposecretory and hypersecretory states of cortisol and thyroxine. Although of little practical value to the clinical endocrinologist, it is well presented by a man knowledgeable in his subject.

The next section comprises three chapters about pregnancy. One is concerned with thyroid dysfunction, another with parathyroid dysfunction, and the third with diabetes. The information in this section is presented in a relatively factual form, detailing the problems in diagnosis of thyroid and parathyroid disease during pregnancy, its complications and management. With regard to diabetes, a good discussion is given of the background of the problem of the diabetic pregnancy plus a recounting of the author's study of the management of diabetic pregnancies, which illustrates the value of careful clinical management of the pregnancy and the blood sugar level and the use of modern neonatal intensive care facilities.

In the chapter on growth hormone dynamics in diabetes mellitus, the confusion in regard to this area is sustained. The part of the thyroid chapter on medullary carcinoma contains all of the author's graphs from in vitro studies of medullary thyroid carcinoma, compared with normal thyroid tissue, thus serving to demonstrate that cancer is different from normal thyroid. Some of the clinical aspects of medullary thyroid carcinoma are reviewed, with regard to its familial occurrence, its diagnosis, and its management. In the final chapter a catalog of gastrointestinal hormones and "almost" hormones are listed and described.

At its price it is difficult for me to recommend this book for any particular audience. There is no question that the book has information on topics current at the time of writing and well referenced which can serve as an apt starting point for reading in the areas covered. A clinical endocrinologist interested in neuroendocrinology and its pharmacologic manipulation may find value in the first section. The collaborating internist and obstetrician dealing with an endocrinologically
complicated pregnancy will find help in the pregnancy section. The value of the remainder of the book is relative to the reader's needs.

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The volume is a small, pocket-size, 100-page, extremely useful manual that could find use by the house officer, fellow in gynecologic endocrinology, or as a rapid reference text. In contrast to the two major current texts, such as Spirof's Clinical Gynecologic Endocrinology and Infertility and Yen and Jaffe's text on reproductive endocrinology, it offers more rapid-fire "how to" information than the much more extensively illustrated and beautifully done reference volumes. It even offers a small chapter on specimen handling and useful data in each chapter on normal values. In chapters on hyperandrogenism and amenorrhea, flow charts are utilized for clinical evaluation. The chapter on steroid metabolism includes a separate discussion of urinary steroid metabolites.

As a quick source of useful information, it fulfills its job admirably, but it is in no way to be taken as a reference text. It is a book that deserves to be used.

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This volume is the seventh in a series of symposia dealing with progress in reproductive biology and takes up the subject of blastocyst-endometrium relationships. It is well organized into seven specific major topics, beginning with the signals exchanged between the blastocyst and the endometrium during the preattachment and preimplantation period and concluding with the control of human implantation, each covered by four investigators: triggering stimuli; endometrial epithelial cells; stroma and decidual cell reactions; uterine sensitization and the refractory state; subcellular regulation; species diversity; implantation in primates; and control over human implantation.

Upon reading this book several times I was impressed once again with our snail's pace in unraveling the mysteries of this most important area of reproduction. Knowledge of the mechanism of embryo attachment and implantation is still disordered. How the blastocyst signals its presence and stimulates the endometrium to receive it has not excited a tithe of investigative effort or support it receives. No universal conclusion has been reached as to the mechanism by which the embryo elicits the decidual response, and no new experimental models have so far been developed to explore this crucial problem. Implantation in mice and rats still receives the major emphasis, although these very likely are not the best animal models, because, as Dr. Harry Weitlauf correctly pointed out in his 1979 review, they are able to delay implantation.

There are 1067 references listed in the various chapters, many of which are repetitive.

Those who are aware of the research in the area covered in this volume will be disappointed, in that so much of the material presented has appeared in quite similar form in a number of earlier publications, an indication, perhaps, that progress in this area of investigation is exceedingly slow. Although it is recognized that this was not to be an overall exhaustive review but rather an exposition of recent advances in research in this subject, it is disconcerting that certain important observations recorded in the literature by earlier investigators have been ignored.

It seems to this reviewer that anyone proposing to contribute significantly much needed further research in the basic problem of the embryo-endometrial interrelationship must develop interdisciplinary programs to study the molecular basis for uterine sensitivity to the presence of the blastocyst as well as how the blastocyst signals the instant it is mature enough for attachment and implantation.

Why no subject index? Its omission seriously detracts from the usefulness of a publication of
this magnitude, particularly for those unacquainted with the field.

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REFERENCE


This supplement to the journal Placenta is a compilation of papers presented at a symposium in June 1980 at Erasmus University in The Netherlands. In 11 chapters (or 11 papers), the editors have successfully presented the diverse types of placental transfer and the hemodynamics involved.

Battaglia gives a general introduction to the subject in respect to fetal demand. Section I includes a comprehensive diagrammatic placental anatomy of diverse mammals (Kaufmann) and the well-known Dr. E. Ramsey's experiments on placental circulation. Section II includes utero-placental blood flow regulation (Wallenburg), the efficiency of different models of placental circulation and transfer (Martin), and a somewhat difficult paper to grasp for the uninitiated in mathematics (Kreel). The last paper in this section deals with the placental transfer of gases and electrolytes (Moll). Section III involves active transfer of different substances, glucose and lactate, amino acids, calcium and iron, and finally immunoglobulin transport by endocytosis.

This is a highly specialized collection of authoritative papers by well-known investigators in placental transfer. It is a good reference text for research dealing with placental circulation and transfer.

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Novak's Textbook of Gynecology, 10th Ed.

The beautiful revision of this classic textbook for the first time had to be prepared by the senior authors without the collaboration of a Novak. Besides the editors, significant contributors to this edition include Drs. Conrad Julian, Anne Colston Wentz, Howard Jones III, J. Donald Woodruff, and Edward F. Lewison. Emphasis is on current views of general gynecology, gynecologic oncology, and gynecologic endocrinology. The text has been essentially rewritten, incorporating contemporary understanding of reproductive physiology and endocrinology. Strong emphasis on pathology remains the hallmark of the textbook. As in past editions, the illustrations are excellent and numerous, and the references with each chapter are current. Because of past popularity among students, a paperback condensed version of the text is also available.

One can only describe the hardback edition in superlatives. Obstetricians, gynecologists, pathologists, all those dealing with diseases of women and with reproductive physiology owe a deep debt of gratitude to the senior authors and their collaborators for preparing this fine edition, which will grace our institutional and personal libraries.

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