

## BOOK REVIEW

*Analgesia and Anesthesia in Obstetrics.* By J. P. GREENHILL, M.D. Pp. 80. A monograph in American Lectures in Gynecology and Obstetrics. Publication No. 159, American Lecture Series. Charles C Thomas, 1952.

At least part of the material of this monograph was taken from *Principles and Practice of Obstetrics* by Greenhill-De Lee. Its main function is to express the author's ideas in a field which is not primarily his own, namely, anesthesiology. Scarcely any of the material would interest the practicing anesthesiologist, and most of it would tend seriously to mislead students and residents. There is an abundance of theoretical material, with a relative paucity of clinical application while, at times, practical details are given in a cook book manner more suitable to a text on nursing arts.

Certain statements indicate the naivete of the obstetrician writing on anesthesiology: "... the conjectural effect (of cyclopropane) on the heart," "the solution (in saddle block anes-

thesia) is injected as rapidly as gentle pressure on the plunger of the syringe permits" (gauge of needle not mentioned), "... the uncertainty of locating the caudal canal," "the selection of the drug and its dosage is an obstetrical problem of the first magnitude."

Since this book was written apparently for obstetricians rather than for anesthesiologists, it should contain more basic anesthesiological material. To this reviewer, it is unfortunate that there is no section on anesthesia requirements in various obstetrical procedures, nor any organized, coherent discussion of anoxia or of fetal asphyxia and its management.

Ten black and white illustrations deal exclusively with regional and infiltration anesthesia, and are not particularly enlightening. References are scanty and not sufficiently up to date. The style is simple and direct, and the use of the first person is not extremely noticeable.

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