

Clinical Management of Mother and Newborn. EDITED BY GERTIE F. MARX. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1979. Pages: 274. Price: \$29.80.

The title of this book yields little insight into the book's purpose or contents. It is not a textbook of obstetric pain relief, although its editor, Gertie F. Marx, has been indentified with that area of anesthesiology throughout her distinguished career. Neither is it a monograph on obstetrics, neonatology or perinatal medicine, although it contains information in each of these areas whose margins are increasingly blurred and whose interdependence is apparent.

Rather, the stated purpose of this book is the presentation in 15 chapters with 18 contributors of postpartum and postnatal physiology and pathophysiology, focusing exclusively on the first few days following birth. Since this is a unique venture, one must question both the validity of the concept (is the immediate postpartum period so special as to warrant such a monograph?) and its execution (does the book achieve its stated goals?).

In my opinion, the anesthetic and obstetric management of women and their offspring during labor and delivery should not be artificially separated into ante- and postpartum compartments. Postpartum complications, with rare exceptions, are generated by ante- or intrapartum events. Maternal postpartum complications are dealt with in the first three chapters, which comprise only 41 of the 274 pages of the book. Major maternal problems, including uterine atony, pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, and aspiration pneumonitis, are discussed in less than one page each. Postpartum headache, by contrast, is allotted 14 pages, an excellent review with specific recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of this vexing problem.

The fourth chapter, "The Normal Parent-Newborn Relationship: Its Importance for the Healthy Development of the Child," deals with issues that extend far beyond the newborn period, is replete with psychosocial jargon, and ends with a plea for "family-oriented" perinatal care and the use of drugs with minimal depressant effects on mother and newborn. It is difficult to distinguish fact from hypothesis in this area so unfamiliar to anesthesiologists.

Chapters 5, 6, and 7 are definitive reviews of Apgar scoring, clinical neonatal neurobehavioral assessment, and the effects of obstetric analgesia and anesthesia on newborn neurobehavior function. These are welcome additions to this controversial and increasingly important area of public concern. Neonatal pharmacology is reviewed in chapter 8 in only five pages, sufficient only to introduce a few concepts in qualitative fashion.

The remainder of the book, seven chapters comprising two-thirds of the whole, is devoted to reviews of selected aspects of neonatal physiology, pathophysiology and clinical neonatology. Included are detailed essays on meconium aspiration, neonatal acidosis, exchange transfusion, and the infant of the drug-dependent mother. The final chapter discusses trends in maternal and perinatal mortality in New York City. Notable by its absence is a recommended plan for the immediate clinical care of the newborn in the delivery room with a discussion of resuscitation and thermal homeostasis.

As a whole, the book fails to make a compelling case that its concept is valid, that postpartum and neonatal aspects of obstetric care are so special as to warrant this treatment. Its execution reflects the lack of an underlying rationale. Although several of the individual chapters are excellent reviews of specific topics, there is little glue to bond them together and put them into perspective. This failure may reflect the fact that obstetricians, anesthesiologists, neonatologists and developmental psychologists have for the most part worked apart from each other with minimal interdisciplinary communication, joint research efforts, or shared clinical responsibilities. It is hoped that this situation will change in the years ahead to permit the

production of a book such as this that will be more coherent and hence more useful.

MILTON H. ALPER, M.D.
*Department of Anesthesia
Boston Hospital for Women
221 Longwood Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02113*

Laboratory Exercises in Respiratory Therapy. BY CYNTHIA A. SHOUP and RONALD N. MCHENRY. St Louis, C. V. Mosby, 1979. Pages: 251. Price: \$10.95.

I did not approach with enthusiasm the reading and review of a laboratory exercise manual, but I was in for a pleasant surprise, for this is no ordinary workbook. Although it is intended to complement the use of traditional respiratory therapy textbooks, I found this book a fountain of information in itself.

Each chapter contains a goal, a terminal objective, a behavioral objective, a list of needed equipment, and suggested readings. Since I believe the lexicon of pedagogy serves a useful purpose, I was pleased to see this incorporated into the chapter outline. There are also investigative exercises, which are intended to allow the reader to discover information about the function, capabilities and limitations of respiratory therapy equipment. The procedural exercises encourage the learner to acquire and perfect skills in techniques used in the administration of therapy.

Originally, the manual was developed for use in respiratory therapy schools. However, the authors have discovered that the manual adapts well to use in-service training of nurses, technicians and therapists with no, or limited, formal respiratory therapy background. The exercises are written in a "self-directed" format to allow the reader to work through each exercise with a minimum amount of supervision. The manual spans the field of respiratory therapy, including chapters on manual resuscitators, IPPB devices and techniques, incentive spirometry, chest physical therapy, continuous mechanical ventilators of most types, measurement of compliance, and various forms of adjunctive therapy.

This large (8½ × 11-inch) manual is soft-covered, hole-punched so that it can be inserted into a loose-leaf binder, and has perforated pages that allow the work exercises to be handled separately. There are more than 100 line drawings and photographs. The instructions for each exercise are clearly written, and the references are appropriate. The print is large and clear, and the paper feels substantial. All in all, the authors and publishers are to be congratulated for filling an educational need with a well-written and attractive product.

MARK B. RAVIN, M.D.
*Department of Anesthesiology
University of Kentucky
Albert B. Chandler Medical Center
Lexington, Kentucky 40536*

Principles and Practice of Blood-Gas Analysis. BY A. P. ADAMS and C. E. W. HAHN. London, Franklin Scientific Projects, Ltd., 1979. Pages: 95. Price: PNS.

In this refreshingly short and refreshingly readable treatise, the authors state their intention to concentrate on the principles on which rest the understanding and measurement of blood gases. It is aimed at the level of a medical student or house officer, and I think