

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Control of Pain in Childbirth.* By CLIFFORD B. LULL, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Obstetrics, Jefferson Medical College; Assistant Director, Philadelphia Lying-in Unit, Pennsylvania Hospital; and ROBERT A. HINGSON, M.D., Surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service; Director, Post-graduate medical course, Philadelphia Lying-in Unit, Pennsylvania Hospital; with an introduction by NORRIS N. VAUX, M.D., Obstetrician in Chief, Philadelphia Lying-in Unit, Pennsylvania Hospital. Octavo, pp. 356 with 132 illustrations, 32 in color. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1944. Price, \$7.50.

The authors who have contributed generously to the anesthetic literature during the past few years on the merits of continuous caudal analgesia have given this subject a major place in this comprehensive compilation of methods to provide pain relief during childbirth. More than one fifth of the text is devoted to discussions of this procedure. In these pages, the advantages, disadvantages, successes and failures, as well as its technical application, are ably set forth on the basis of the experience of the authors and their students.

Included, also, is the entire field of obstetric anesthesia which is introduced by a brief section on anatomy of the organs of parturition, followed by a pharmacological discussion of the anesthetic agents that are and have been employed. This section is illustrated by unique diagrams in color prepared to illustrate a summation of the organic effects of the agents listed.

The second part of the work is devoted to a brief history of pain relief

during childbirth, then a description of technical procedures. The latter, except for the continuous caudal technique, is epitomized to the extent that it is almost a listing of methods.

There follow discussions, more accurately obstetrical in nature, such as management of the third stage of labor, cesarean section, management of the puerperium. These discussions include pain relief whenever it may be applicable.

The final part of the text, thirty pages, presents complications of pregnancy and resuscitation of the newborn. The latter does not contain a comprehensive discussion of recent work on this subject. The authors have quoted frequently from others who have written on all the subjects discussed. A bibliography is appended to each section.

It seems obvious that the authors have attempted to "coordinate and correlate the analgesia, amnesia and anesthesia in obstetric practice" as expressed by Dr. Vaux in the Foreword. Such an attempt could not possibly reach completion in one or several texts of this design. The work will serve the medical student for orientation in the subject; it will provide the busy obstetrician with a resume and bibliography and the discerning anesthesiologist with a compilation brought up to date on the merits and utilization of continuous caudal anesthesia for the control of pain in childbirth.

The publishers have produced an attractive product, using a high grade of stock with a desirable format. The illustrations are commendably reproduced.

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