whether hysterical features are present or not. These, however, are small criticisms in a book which can be cordially recommended to undergraduates and doctors in any branch of medicine.

The book is attractively produced and has a comprehensive index.


This monograph is the first of its kind to deal in detail with a single poison and it is to be hoped that it is the predecessor of others. Most poisons are dealt with in textbooks of forensic medicine and toxicology, but in limited detail, for space dictates how much can be included and policy that none shall be left out. It is, in fact, necessary to go back to the great Witthaus who wrote "Manual of Toxicology" in 1911 to find a really detailed description of even a common poison such as arsenic.

Thallium is little known in this country except as a therapeutic depilatory agent but it has been used for more harmful objects elsewhere and particularly in Australia. This may be because it is in more common use as a pesticide. This monograph does not limit itself to symptomatology, identification and treatment but includes both pathological anatomy and experimental pathology. The authors modestly excuse themselves for their work on grounds of public interest, but the production has more than justified itself as an academic contribution to clinical toxicology which draws attention to the close resemblance between clinical diseases such as Landry's paralysis and polynieritis and thallium poisoning, thereby sounding a warning that exclusive chemical analysis may from time to time be advisable.

There is an excellent review of the literature in this book.


De Lee's famous textbook of Obstetrics appears in its eleventh edition compiled by Greenhill. In its present form it continues to maintain and to advance the deserved reputation of its predecessors. The thousand double-columned pages of which it consists are a remarkable storehouse of sound information, extensively culled, systematically assembled, judiciously considered and admirably presented. The style is lucid, contributing to facile perusal. The efforts of the publishers are also to be commended for the excellent quality of the production.

The main division of the book is into a consideration of the normal and of the abnormal processes; in each the scientific approach to the problems involved is characterized by the wealth and accuracy of the data provided, whilst their correlation to the practice of the art is subsequently well effected.

A noteworthy feature of the book is the collaboration of the author with authorities in several specialized fields, amongst which may be mentioned anaesthesia, erythroblastosis, puerperal infections and disordered renal states. Endocrine physiology and pathology in pregnancy is still another, from which many interesting points emerge: the improvement of hypopituitarism in pregnancy—indicating the manufacture of the missing hormones by the placenta; the augmenting effect of chorionic gonadotrophin on the level of antidiuretic substance in the serum; the reappearance of adrenal steroids in pregnancy in patients suffering from Addison's disease; the failure of ACTH administration in evoking toxemia in the normally pregnant; the different level of production of supracorticoids in normal and toxemic pregnancy, and so on. These serve as examples to illustrate the detailed care in producing the section.

The normal processes of labour are also thoroughly dealt with and profusely and aptly illustrated. The chapter on anaesthesia, also written in collaboration with an authority, contains an evaluation of oral and hypodermic methods in obstetrics; of inhalation and intravenous agents; and of block and local infiltration techniques. It covers recent advances in the field and gives much attention to hypnosis and to the Grantly Dick Read approach. However, there is no reference to the use of gas and air anaesthesia, an oversight of significance to the British reader.

The three stages of hyperemesis gravidarum are well discussed, but the insidiousness of approach of the third and fatal stage has not been sufficiently stressed.

The section on ante-partum haemorrhage contains much recent information. Prominence is accorded to Schneider's theory of hypofibrinogenemia in the aetiology of accidental haemorrhage. The ready occurrence of shock in these patients is ascribed to the frequently associated and preceding toxemia, perhaps a controversial point. Although renal artery spasm is included as an accompaniment of the state the threat of subsequent anuria remains
A valuable observation is recorded, that fetal death is often wrongly presumed to have occurred in cases of severe abruptio placenta—an encouragement to resort more frequently to Caesarean section in such circumstances.

The subject of toxemia is amply discussed in collaboration with an authority on renal dysfunction emphasizing the close aetiological association of the two. The intrusion of the kidney both into this syndrome and into that of concealed accidental haemorrhage would be further appreciated if the elementary biochemistry of the organ and its haemodynamic interpretation were more completely explained in subsequent editions. The advance in obstetric education demands this expansion if a proper appreciation of the subject is to be had by all. It is satisfying to note that the modern theses of pre-eclamptic aetiology, such as the myometrial resistance to stretch, are included in the text.

A pretty experiment is cited to exclude uterine pressure on the ureter as a cause of pregnancy pyelitis. It demonstrates that the pregnant monkey can develop a hydro-ureter with the placenta alone in situ after the fetus has been removed, an indirect proof of a hormonal aetiology and a denial of a pressure effect. Routine microscopy of the urine at every antenatal visit is urged so that the earliest possible diagnosis of pyuria can be effected. These exemplify the meticulous approach into theory and practice once again.

Numerous data of value emerge in the chapter on erythroblastosis, amongst them that kernicterus is not present in the stillborn and that erythroblasts in the macerated fetus occur solely in lung capillaries. For completeness, the rarer forms of its treatment are discussed. They include immunization with a stronger antibody-stimulating antigen; ethylene disulphonate, methionine, Rh hapten, ACTH and cortisone.

The author of a textbook on obstetrics is always faced with the problem of the presentation without repetition of subjects that are closely interdependent. A single theme may comprise the failure of rotation of the posterior occiput borderline contractions of the pelvis and of its unusual contour or uterine inertia. The failure of the test of labour can succinctly be described as occurring when "progress is seemingly blocked" [sic]. Detailed consideration may have previously been given to the processes from which such a diagnosis stems. The spreadover of such information is greater in proportion to the size of the book that contains it, and its clinical educational impact correspondingly suffers. A worth-while solution for the comprehensive presentation of these themes is not herein evident, though the relative information is complete.

Improvement could be effected in certain directions. As an instance, there could be an amplification of X-ray aids in diagnosis; the Liverpool technique of delivery of the aftercoming head could be described; and attention could be drawn to the risk to the fetus when the low-lying placenta is posteriorly sited. Then again, although great thoroughness is displayed in the treatment of post-partum haemorrhage, criticism may be levelled at the advice to invade the uterine cavity, four times even on occasion, without previous investigation of the blood-clotting mechanism for a possible defect. Also more in keeping with current practice would be a description of the transverse myometrial incision rather than the vertical the author employs in lower segment operations.

An occasional contradiction appears but there are very few typographical errors.

Asynchronitis is clearly portrayed in the excellent illustrations of contracted pelves and its implications fully discussed. The diagrammatic and the serial visualization of transverse arrest is extremely well done. Modern advance is evident in that lower segment section is advocated should forceps fail to deliver at trial labour and amongst others that "most primipare" should have pelvic roentgenograms shortly before term because of the risk of mid-plane contraction remaining undetected.

Deserving of mention also is the pertinent bibliography; the excellent tabulations, as for example, the drug substances excreted in the milk; the differential diagnosis between pyelitis and appendicitis, and so forth; the proximity of the diagrams to the text they illustrate; the employment of modern methods of treatment such as surgical procedures for mitral stenosis in pregnancy, and so forth. Attention to prophylaxis is also very evident. The exhibition of vitamin K shortly before birth in all difficult labours; the employment of oxygen inhalation during parturition to sustain the fetus; the interdiction of external version should the placenta be anteriorly sited—an implication that X-ray investigation is imperative as a preliminary to such procedures, are among the innumerable injunctions presented.

The book, though expensive, is good value, and can be thoroughly recommended for it is a vast storehouse of sound knowledge accumulated over the years and well presented. Though American in origin it yet admirably serves the British reader. Specialist and postgraduate alike must derive considerable benefit from its perusal. The undergraduate reader will also profit, for the subject matter is simply and clearly presented and well within his competence to appreciate.

Dr. Greenhill, whose reputation for advancing obstetric and gynaecological education is world wide, deserves commendation in producing this, the eleventh, edition.