

BOOK REVIEWS

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THE CARE OF THE DRUG DEPENDENT WOMAN AND HER INFANT by E.M. Ostrea, C.J. Chavez and J.C. Stryker (Michigan Department of Public Health)

This book deals with the care of the pregnant woman who is a drug addict and who is:

- (a) less than 5 months pregnant
- (b) 5 months pregnant or longer
- (c) in the last week of pregnancy or premature labour.

As a matter of interest the following can be mentioned: the special and routine laboratory tests which are conducted here, the obstetric complications which are found in the case of heroin addicts, the specific areas which must be considered in physical examination of pregnant woman, the narcotic dependence of the woman and the general medical complications during pregnancy.

Intra- and postpartum attention is given to anaesthesia, psychological support, breast-feeding,

psychological care and family planning.

Most of the narcotic drugs taken by a pregnant woman pass through the placenta and thus enter the foetal circulation as a result of which problems *in utero* develop during or shortly after birth.

The problems are dealt with in 4 categories:

- (a) prenatal problems
- (b) postnatal problems (excluding withdrawal problems)
- (c) neonatal withdrawal
- (d) neonatal neuro- behavioural problems and the effect on the mother-child relationship.

Attention is also given to neonatal addiction, namely non-narcotic drugs, *inter alia* hypo- sedatives and alcohol as well as the prognosis of these infants of the drug- addicted woman (long-term effect).

At the end of each chapter concise and important data are tabulated which facilitates reading.

This is an 82-page, well-set out paperback. It can be definitely recommended to all libraries and clinics where similar problems are experienced.

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