

# BOOK REVIEWS

## AN INTRODUCTION TO MIDWIFERY

deur **Maureen Hickman**. (Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, England).

Die doel van hierdie boek is om aan die studentvrou 'n komprehensiewe oorsig van verloskunde te gee wat in 'n logiese volgorde geskryf is.

Die boek is in vier afdelings geskryf:

1. Handel oor normale aspekte van verloskunde
2. Handel oor abnormale verloskunde
3. Handel oor die Fetus
4. Handel oor gesondheid en sosiale dienste

Laasgenoemde is nie van toepassing op die Suid-Afrikaanse Verpleegsters nie.

Die waarde van hierdie boek word verhoog deur die voorstelle vir verdere naslaandoeleindes aan die einde van elke hoofstuk. Met die aanvang van die boek gee die skryfster 'n beskrywing van basiese terminologieë wat 'n definitiewe behoefte is vir die beginner.

Hoewel die skryfster net die partogram noem, word die belangrikheid en die implementering daarvan nie bespreek nie, soos met verskeie toestande waarvan o.a. proefkraam en abnormale uterienwerking. As die partogram geïmplementeer word, behoort daar nie weer 'n gedetailleerde beskrywing van verlengde baring, te wees nie; dieselfde geld vir proefkraam se vordering.

'n Meer moderne metode van plasenta praevia is om te verwys na die grade persentasie wat die plasenta die Interne OS bedek tot en met volontsluiting.

In die geheel gesien is dit 'n goeie handboek wat ek sal aanbeveel vir verpleegskoolbiblioteke, hoewel nie as voorgeskrewe handboek nie, al is die skryfster hiervan 'n eksamenatrise van die "Central Midwives Board".

*SYLVIA VENTER*

## A GENERAL TEXTBOOK OF NURSING

by **Evelyn Pearce** with a foreword by **Virginia Henderson**. (Publishers: Faber and Faber, London, 20th Edition 1980, 383 pages, illustrated. Price: R18,55, Represented by MacMillan, South Africa, Tel. (011) 39-6761, available from local booksellers.

The writer of this review remembers well how she enjoyed reading (as opposed to pre-examination studying) what must have been the 11th edition of this textbook, published in 1950. The reasons for this enjoyment certainly were not analysed at that time by the reviewer. Indeed, the textbook had been effectively forgotten by her for almost thirty years; but on reading the 20th edition of the book, the same sense of enjoyment returns.

This 1980 edition Evelyn Pearce has re-written completely; forty-three chapters, written by 36 authors, of whom all but four are nurses, cover all aspects of nursing practice. There are chapters on basic nursing procedures such as bed-making, paediatric and geriatric nursing care, communicable disease nursing and operating theatre nursing techniques, principles of surgery, health education, psychiatric and mental handicap nursing. There are chapters about the patients' emotional reactions to hospitalisation, community nursing care, the care of the dying, the use of volunteers in nursing (by no less a person than Muriel Skeet) and the use of research in nursing (contributed by the greatly experienced Lisbeth Hockey).

The chapters are uneven in quality as might be expected with such varied authorship. Some give remarkably little information away and have thin references, for example, Chapter 21 on metabolic endocrine and blood disorders; others, such as Chapter 30 on plastic surgery, manage to convey a useful nursing guide in very few pages.

Virginia Henderson, in the foreword to the book (an excellent introduction not to be skipped) writes that the book "suggests an unusually broad scope . . . the intention is to present a survey useful primarily to the basic student . . . no one can deny the value to students of seeing the whole of nursing before studying its parts intensively" and herein lies the value of the book. It manages to convey a sense of the excitement and the potential of nursing care and as such, at the least should be a good nursing library purchase.

*B. N. Hunt*