

## Book Reviews

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Section Editor

**Problems of the Pleural Space**, by G. Hugh Lawrence, M.D., Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co, 1983, 118 pp.

This is a unique monograph dealing, as its title implies, with problems of the pleural space. This topic has been reviewed comprehensively by the author and is organized conveniently into nine chapters. Each chapter deals with a specific problem, with its contents arranged in a logical sequence. In every case, the evolution of the treatment modality is presented from a historical perspective, which adds greatly to the reader's understanding of both the disease process and its treatment.

This monograph is a compilation of a body of information that is not currently available in any other single source. It is an important addition to the general thoracic surgical literature and is particularly useful for residents in training. Not only does it serve as an excellent teaching aid, but it also serves as a reference source for a group of diseases that fewer and fewer thoracic surgeons have extensive experience in treating.

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**Handbook of Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring**, by Julian T. Parer, M.D., Ph.D., Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1983, 240 pp, \$18.00.

This handbook is an abbreviated review of the use and techniques of electronic fetal heart rate monitoring during the antepartum and intrapartum periods. Included are basic observations relating to the many methods of fetal surveillance and to fetal and placental physiology. The book also comprises discussions of acid base and vagal and sympathetic control of the fetal heart rate. The instrumentation available for heart rate and fetal scalp monitoring is described. The author then discusses the various kinds of heart rate patterns and comments on the management and complications of the various monitoring techniques. The data are current, and the figures are clear. Finally, a section dealing with data storage and the legal aspects of monitoring, which should be of interest to all clinicians, is included.

Since little that is new has been added to the field

of fetal heart monitoring during the last ten years, this is a comprehensive summary—not an update. The style of writing is clear and without redundancy. The overviews of physiology, labor management, and monitoring techniques are appropriate.

This is a reasonable review for residents or for those who do not use heart rate monitoring frequently. The *Handbook of Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring* would be a good publication to have in the labor and delivery room for all personnel.

The author's background includes study at the University of Oregon and in the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of San Francisco. He is presently Associate Professor and Director of Obstetrics; Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences; School of Medicine; and on the associate staff of the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco.

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**Clinical Vascular Disease**, by John A. Spittell Jr., M.D., Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Co, 1983, 346 pp, \$45.00.

The spectrum of vascular disease covered in this book is vast, ranging from arterial and venous problems to vasculitis, pulmonary embolism, and thrombolytic therapy. The editor, Dr. John A. Spittell, Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, attempts to present topics which have traditionally been overlooked in medical schools and postgraduate residency training programs. He has incorporated the experience and opinions of 23 authors representing six major institutions east of the Mississippi River plus the Mayo Clinic. He has presented a stimulating and eloquent text, drawing on the expertise of these individuals and employing 145 illustrations throughout the book.

The contributors have used a mix of illustrations, including photographic, angiographic, graphic, and plain-view examples of the diseases. The photographs showing the gross pathology of various conditions are excellent. Microscopic illustrations are limited primarily to the chapter dealing with vasculitides. The mul-