

VOLUME 1

Principles and Practice of OBSTETRICS & PERINATOLOGY



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Principles and Practice of **OBSTETRICS** & **PERINATOLOGY**

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This Volume Is Dedicated to the Memory of
IGNATZ PHILIPP SEMMELWEIS
in Remembrance of His Genius, Faith,
Compassion, and Courage and His Belief
in Women's Right to Safe and Happy
Motherhood



1818-1865



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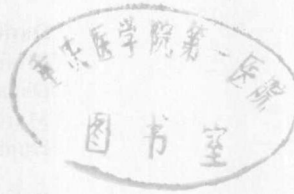
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Preface

It seems a reasonable expectation on the part of the reader that a major clinical textbook would address itself in earnest to the task of serving a broad variety of purposes:

1. To present a cross section and define the dimensions of the relevant field of science
2. To be an authoritative guide in identifying prevailing standards of practice
3. To offer solutions to difficult clinical problems
4. To satisfy the needs of physicians at all levels of their training, from the national through the speciality and subspeciality board examinations to the possible recertification of specialists

One should also expect that a textbook of excellence would try to fulfil the following additional criteria:

1. To serve as an encyclopedia of knowledge gathered throughout the centuries
2. To summarize the findings of research pertinent to the practice of the speciality
3. To strike a reasonable balance between relevant basic information and useful practical data
4. To assess accurately the validity of recent trends in comparison with accepted traditional concepts
5. To pay due attention to the literature available only in foreign languages, recognizing the fact that many important contributions to the science of medicine have been and are being made abroad

It is the contention of the editors, and the reason for the production of these volumes that the literature of our speciality, and in fact obstetrics in general, have deviated from the above-stated principles. Undoubtedly, the difficulties in-

involved with outlining the boundaries and fathoming the depths of this discipline, which within the span of 10 or 15 years has rejuvenated and transformed itself from the venerable old "art" of obstetrics into the fast-expanding young science of perinatology, are considerable. However, these circumstances offer only an explanation, not an excuse, for the current trend of emphasizing contemporary thoughts and research efforts at the cost of eliminating essential aspects of time-honored traditional knowledge from the pages of textbooks. Through the same philosophy, the initially justifiable stress upon education in basic aspects of reproduction has resulted finally in the development of numerous textbooks presenting a prodigious amount of basic scientific data as the massive foundation for a diminutive body of clinical information.

Research, once the tool designed to facilitate the work of the clinician, has become the goal in contemporary obstetrics. Thus, the practitioner is bombarded constantly with an ever-expanding amount of research results compiled in journals, books, films, records, and tapes. Under the circumstances, the appearance of a "big leap forward" in perinatology gives the physician a feeling of being left hopelessly behind. His or her desperate effort to keep up with the ever-accelerating flow of new information is fast becoming an act of self-sacrifice bordering upon heroism. The very amount of this mushrooming "knowledge" makes one increasingly uncertain about the feasibility of assessing its value relative to the age-old goal of our profession, which remains, as it was in the days of Hippocrates, simply the welfare of the mother and her child.

Having been nurtured on the concept that research is the very lifeline of modern medicine, our profession has failed to take into account some profound changes that have taken place in recent years. With the gradual disappearance of federal grants and other independent sources of research support, pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers of modern equipment have gained increasing prominence as sponsors of