

DEREK LLEWELLYN-JONES

Fundamentals of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

VOLUME TWO · GYNAECOLOGY SECOND EDITION

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OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

VOLUME II

GYNAECOLOGY

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Preface

This book, which is the second volume of *Fundamentals of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, deals specifically with matters which are considered conventionally to constitute gynaecology. Although most teachers today agree that obstetrics and gynaecology form two intertwined branches of a single discipline, a combined textbook in 'gyniatrics' would be too bulky for convenient handling. I believe it important that a book should not only be clear, informative and stimulating to read, but it should also be pleasant to handle. However, so that this book on gynaecology may stand on its own, two chapters from the volume on obstetrics have been included, with only slight modification; these are the chapters on Abortion and Ectopic Gestation.

This book is intended primarily for undergraduates and for those graduates spending a six months' residency in obstetrics and gynaecology. In the latter period, reading should be supplemented by reference to recent articles and to specialist monographs. However, the heavy 'work load' in the undergraduate period has the effect of precluding this approach, and consequently it is suggested that if a student wishes for more detailed information on a particular subject, he will be able to find the appropriate references in the larger textbooks recommended later in this preface, or preferably will seek the advice of his tutors and study the specialist journals.

My conviction that the medical and psychosomatic aspects of gynaecology are of considerably greater importance than the mechanical-surgical approach which was common until recently, will be observed by the discerning reader. For this I make no apology. Today over 85 per cent of gynaecological complaints require thoughtful analysis and critical assessment by the physician, and only 15 per cent require surgical intervention. All too often the doctrine of 'if in doubt, cut it out' prevails, and the amount of unnecessary, and often harmful, gynaecological surgery performed in all countries, and under a variety of medical philosophies, is distressing to observe. This observation in no way diminishes the need for well-trained, highly qualified, surgically

expert gynaecologists within the community, but it emphasizes that their numbers need not be great, and that much gynaecology will continue to be performed by the patient's personal physician.

The value of the personal physician is of particular importance as in no specialty is the influence of the mind upon the body of greater consequence, and the neglect of this aspect in the past is a discredit to our chosen profession. It is hoped that in stressing this aspect of gynaecology, the student will be persuaded to continue to retain an enquiring mind in his graduate years.

Nor can the preventive aspects of gynaecology be ignored. The rapid increase in population occurring in most of the developing countries of the world threatens our survival; the misery caused by misleading information on sexual matters threatens the happiness of many women; for these reasons the control of population growth; and the problems of sexual behaviour are discussed at some length. Attention is also directed to the early detection of carcinoma at a stage when it is readily curable, and this aspect of preventive medicine is stressed.

The gratifying reception of this book and the letters I have received since its publication has made the work required for the second edition less onerous. Because of changes in other people's (and my) attitudes to human sexuality, the chapter on human sexuality has been rewritten to a considerable extent. So too has the chapter on contraception, as this part of gyniatrics has undergone considerable changes in the last six years. Other chapters have been brought up to date as new information has appeared in the literature.

As with the first edition, I have had to make a personal choice in recommending larger more detailed texts for students who wish to pursue a particular topic further and seek more complete references. I would remind readers, however, that references are given in the bibliography.

The larger texts I would recommend are:

