

gastro-intestinal disease. The inclusion of carefully selected key references at the end of each chapter (an innovation in this 2nd edition) demonstrates that this book is but a beginning and points the way for those who wish to seek a deeper knowledge of any aspect of the subject.

This is an excellent book.

Standards of Obstetric Care

The Report of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Obstetric Survey, 1962-1963. By R. G. LAW. Pp. xi+348. Edinburgh & London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967. 60s.

During a year's period in 1962-63 all 71,689 National Health Service deliveries in the North-West Metropolitan region were scanned for certain categories of mother, namely, the elderly primigravida, the grand multipara, the one with a multiple pregnancy, and the one where the foetus presented by the breech at delivery. These groups were then analysed on the basis of completed questionnaires from district midwives, general practitioners and hospital staff.

The aim of the survey is to improve perinatal mortality in these four high risk groups of patients. The duration of the survey is short and changes in technique and management were unlikely to occur in a year. Statistical advice has been used and it is indicated where the number of cases is too small to allow a significant conclusion.

The final analysis presented in this 348-page book is impressive. The text reports objective findings and briefly alludes to the classic references on the subject; half the space is taken with tabulations confirming the statements made. Conclusions reached are brief and self evident from the data presented.

Some long-held opinions were not supported by the survey's findings; for instance, in a breech presentation with flexed legs the duration of labour was shorter than when the legs were extended. Suspicions, growing in the minds of obstetricians, were confirmed; for instance, the perinatal mortality was worse for the breech baby of a multigravida than a primigravida. The survey suggests that this is due to a less meticulous management of the delivery. In all four sections the seniority of the person responsible for care in labour is discussed. High risk babies are still being electively delivered at home. This is condemned in all groups but the uncomplicated grand multipara.

This book makes fascinating reading and will immediately be a key reference. Its final sentence is a plea on behalf of other obstetricians for time and assistance to survey the clinical material in other regions. Such reports should indicate the way for improvement which is no longer apparent to the individual dealing with two thousand deliveries a year.

The Kidney

By 33 authors edited by F. K. MOSTOFI and D. E. SMITH. Pp. xiii+592, illustrated. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. Edinburgh & London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967. £7 18s.

The title is a little misleading in that the book is not as comprehensive as the title implies. Furthermore, the accent is strongly on pathology but the book is a valuable source of information on some aspects in recent advances in renal patho-physiology. It is a multi-author book and accordingly differences are found in terminology used for description of renal lesions. However, the editors have given a table correlating and equating the terms used of different authors in the preface. The presentation in all chapters is clear and the book is well illustrated. The book is divided into three sections, the first a general one, the second on immunologic injury to the kidney and the third on geographic pathology of renal diseases.

Some of the chapters in the first section are disappointingly

brief and the chapters on normal structure (with too much space given to electromicroscope photographs) and on recent developments in physiology might well have been omitted and more space given for expansion on some of the other aspects. A stimulating review of the modern interpretation of the renal lesions in diabetic nephropathy and their aetiology is given. Other excellent chapters are those on renal lesions found in collagen disorders, on patterns of glomerular reaction and on the renal changes in some metabolic diseases. A valuable critical discussion of modern concepts of the pathophysiology of renal disease is given. A valuable addition to the general section is a chapter dealing with spontaneous renal diseases in animals and gives the reader a comprehensive review on the comparative pathology of the kidney, rarely found in other general texts. The brevity of some chapters is offset to some measure by the full bibliography given at the end of each chapter.

The section on immunologic injury to the kidney gives a first-class résumé of modern concepts. The immunological aspects of renal damage occurring in glomerulo-nephritis and experimental animals are marshalled together in an excellent chapter on the subject. Some important correlations between the pathogenesis of experimental glomerulonephritis and human glomerulonephritis are presented. In this section there are also three good chapters on the current experience of renal homotransplantation in man. The first chapter deals with many of the general problems relating to renal transplantation, followed by one correlating changes in renal function with immunological injury and another correlating histological patterns with changes in renal function.

This book is unique in having a section on the geographic distribution of renal pathology. This field will undoubtedly become increasingly important and the section highlights the diversity of renal lesions throughout the world and the specificity for given areas. Very clear accounts are given of Balkan nephropathy, the nephropathies of West Africa and the distribution of renal disease associated with analgesic abuse. Chapters on the epidemiology of haemorrhagic fever and the related renal lesions and on the geographic distribution and significance of bacteruria are included.

If the first section of the book proves a little disappointing on account of brevity in parts the reader will be amply rewarded by reading the comprehensive and stimulating texts of the next two sections. The last section in particular recognizes the importance of a new, interesting and as yet relatively unexplored area of renal disease.

Postoperative Complications in Neurosurgical Practice:

Recognition, Prevention and Management

By NORMAN H. HORWITZ and HUGO V. RIZZOLI. Pp. xii+427. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967. £7.

This book arose out of a desire to provide a unified description of the various complications that may develop following neurosurgical procedures, as this is a topic that commonly receives little specific attention in textbooks of neurosurgery. In addition to discussing the complications of cranial, spinal and peripheral nerve surgery, those that may follow investigative procedures such as arteriography, ventriculography, pneumoencephalography and myelography are also included. It is a pity that a consideration of the complications of stereotactic surgery for Parkinsonism and related conditions has been omitted, as this is now a widely practiced form of treatment. The omission of the complications of the surgery of epilepsy is more understandable, in view of the fact that such operations tend only to be performed in a small number of specialized units.

The book largely consists of a collection of the published literature in this field, supported by the results of the personal experience of the authors, and it includes a very extensive bibliography.