Introduction

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Research in reproduction has been expanding at such a tremendous rate over the last decade that it has become a desperate problem even for workers in the field to keep up to date with the literature. In this respect the problem faced by the clinician is immense. It is made worse by the tendency of the modern conference to forgo any educative role and to concentrate on reporting original data. Consequently, such conferences tend to appeal mainly to the 'super-specialist'. It was for these reasons that the Symposium on Recent Advances in Reproductive Medicine, whose proceedings are reported here, was organized. What follows is an attempt by specialists actively working in the field to summarize their own and the published experience in a way which is of practical help to the clinician, whether he be physician, surgeon or obstetrician.

As will be evident from the papers, the advances

in our understanding of many aspects of reproduction that have occurred in recent years are astounding. Although their translation into the practicalities of everyday care is less impressive, it remains the hope of the organizers and speakers that this Symposium goes some way towards bridging the gap between the discovery and delivery of new methods of investigation and treatment.

The Symposium was held in the superb Avery-Jones Postgraduate Medical Centre at the Central Middlesex Hospital in March 1974 and the organizers would like to thank the Council of the Postgraduate Medical Centre for permission to use the facilities therein. Finally, we would like to thank the Pharmaceutical Division of Schering Chemicals Ltd which sponsored the conference and provided the generous funding which made the Symposium possible.