

shock and its treatment and pre-malignant change in the endometrium. Ovarian steroidogenesis and the pathology of ovarian tumours will have less appeal, while hydatiform mole and choriocarcinoma, though dramatic, are rare.

Both books are of a convenient size 9in. x 5½in., well designed, easy to read, adequately indexed and with a comprehensive list of references at the end of each chapter.

Motherhood and personality — Psychosomatic aspects of childbirth. LEON CHERTOK. London. Tavistock Publications. 1969. Pp. xvi+303. Price £2 15s. 0d.

The writer of this book is a distinguished psychiatric consultant at the Institut la Rochefoucauld, Paris. He has a particular interest in the psychiatry of pregnancy and childbirth and much of his written work is on this subject.

This book describes a research project which was designed by the author to investigate "the relationship between personality, psychosomatics, and motherhood". He also attempts to assess the benefits of antenatal preparation on delivery.

As Professor Morris says in his foreword, this is an enormously important topic for mothers and obstetricians, and it has received relatively little attention so far.

Dr Chertok reviews the work that has already been done, and describes how deep hypnosis was first used in Russia at the beginning of the century to produce analgesia in childbirth. In this country, Grantly Dick Read developed his well-known method of painless childbirth, and other workers on the Continent followed up with their so-called psychoprophylactic method, in fact an elaboration of the antenatal preparation which we are gradually beginning to accept as an essential part of our obstetric services.

So far work on this big subject has been limited in scope, empirical in approach and relied heavily on the personalities of the therapists. Dr Chertok has attempted to give the subject a more scientific and theoretical basis by an elaborate study on 200 primiparous women. Psychiatric and personality factors were studied during pregnancy, and these were collated with obstetric data and the emotional reactions of the women during and after delivery.

The work is highly professional and produces much complex data, but the results seem curiously indefinite. Not unexpectedly the prepared women did somewhat better than the unprepared. It was shown that some women needed preparation much more than others, and that certain people can benefit much more from it than others. But much more work is needed before this is turned into practical reality.

The subject is a difficult one because it involves

so many human variables and immeasurable quantities. For example: Is it possible to quantify the pain that a woman suffers during labour? But this book could be the starting point for much more work and study. It is a psychiatrist's book, and the arguments and terminology seem sometimes difficult to understand. The syntax is somewhat obscure and certainly not helped by a rather poor translation. But it is to be hoped that obstetricians, general practitioners and midwives will soon be reading books such as these, which will bring a fascinating new dimension into their work, as well as benefiting their painfully labouring patients.

Scientific basis of drug dependence. HANNAH STEINBERG. London. J. & A. Churchill Ltd. 1969. Pp. xvii+429. Price £5 0s. 0d.

At first glance this looks like a textbook, but it is a report on a symposium, organized by the Biological Council, which is the co-ordinating committee for symposia on drug action. The result is a detailed and up-to-date report by a group including leading authorities of several disciplines in the United States and Great Britain.

The definitions, the pharmacology and the experimental and laboratory studies of the social and clinical factors, are all covered in considerable detail and each section records the general discussion which took place. The subject of drug dependence is complex, but this report will serve well as a textbook for anyone who wishes to study the problem. Several speakers considered there was no scientific or social justification to support the demand that the law controlling the use of cannabis should be modified in any way.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Infertility. London. Consumers' Association. 1969. Pp. 108. Price 10s. 0d.

Lecture notes on dermatology. Second edition. BEHTEL SOLOMONS, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.I. Oxford and Edinburgh. Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1969. Pp. ix+257. Price 25s. 0d.

Publications of the World Health Organization 1963-1967. Geneva. World Health Organization. 1969. Pp. 152. Price £1 16s. 0d. clothbound.

Genetic counselling. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 416. Geneva. World Health Organization. 1969. Pp. 23. Price 4s. 0d.

Permissible levels of occupational exposure to airborne toxic substances. World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 415. Geneva. World Health Organization. 1969. Pp. 16. Price 4s. 0d.