

Reviews of Recordings

Domiciliary Obstetrics. Recording by Dr R. P. C. HANDFIELD-JONES.
The College Medical Recording Service and Sound Library.

This is a first-class tape-recording, admirably put together and very well delivered. It is full of practical advice covering the main problems of the general-practitioner obstetrician. The list of equipment and details of conduct of the confinement are excellent. Particularly good are his remarks about cultivating a proper relationship with the midwife in dealing with 'our' patient, and his forward-looking advice about cervical smear at the postnatal examination, to be followed up by advice about immunization programmes and health education. He has, perhaps wisely, avoided giving a comprehensive list of cases *unsuitable* for home delivery, although he covers most of the ground in the course of his discussion. This is a very thorny problem and in general one would agree with his dictum that "home is not the place for abnormal obstetrics". Nevertheless, in the more rural areas, even in the best-run obstetric practices, one may come across a retained placenta and have perforce to deal with it. Some discussion of general anaesthesia and transfusion details would therefore have been useful, although this may have been outside Dr Handfield-Jones' brief. This tape makes an excellent case for the continuation of domiciliary obstetrics provided that proper selection of cases, first-class antenatal care, good equipment and technique and good relations with the midwife are guaranteed. Dr Handfield-Jones is an enthusiast and is to be congratulated on his methods, and on this tape-recording which is heartily recommended to all general-practitioner obstetricians.

The Increase in Venereal Disease. Recording by DR AMBROSE KING.
The College Medical Recording Service and Sound Library.

This is an important recording, for it makes abundantly clear that venereal disease in this country is on the increase. It tells, too, of the increase in promiscuity of the young, a fact supported by the increases in illegitimate births and the cases of gonorrhoea in this age group.

Dr Ambrose King points out that of those males without symptoms who come for a 'check-up' very few are infected, but of females without symptoms at least three-quarters have gonorrhoea. Though gonorrhoea is common in immigrants from the West Indies, they arrive without it and apparently contract it from these women. Too many figures are given in this recording in too much detail, and this makes the point Dr King wants to make harder to grasp; it would make listening easier if hundreds of thousands were in round numbers and percentages to the nearest whole number. The loss in accuracy would not affect the argument.

The reproduction is excellent.