BOOK REVIEW


The authors were guided in writing this monograph by the philosophy that the pathological physiology of heart disease can be elucidated by studying the effects of superimposing pregnancy on the disease process. The outcome is a compilation of information, derived mostly from the author’s own clinical experiences, which is useful not only to clinicians but also to those actively engaged in cardiovascular research. The review of the hemodynamic situation during pregnancy, uncomplicated or complicated by various types of heart disease, is excellent and supplemented with essential references to the literature. The reader will realize a number of interesting problems such as: (a) Mechanisms for increased cardiac output during pregnancy. Is the increase in blood volume the entire cause? Do the hypertrophied uterine vessels behave like arteriovenous shunts which increase output simply by increasing venous return? (b) Regulation of special vascular beds during pregnancy. Why do some patients with angina improve during pregnancy? What factors control uterine blood flow to such an extent that oxygen content in uterine venous blood is usually higher than that of mixed venous blood? Why does pregnancy predispose pulmonary hypertensive patients to develop syncope? These are a few examples and there are more which make this monograph a stimulating book.
Book Review

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