

## FERTILITY

**Loraine, John A. and Bell, E. Trevor.** *Fertility and Contraception in the Human Female.* Edinburgh and London, 1968. Livingstone. Pp. viii + 384. Price 70s.

THERE ARE MANY BOOKS on infertility and on contraception, but none like this. The others have mostly been written by clinicians without extensive backgrounds of scientific research, and though they may deal, with varying degrees of adequacy, with the art, few attempt any extensive treatment of the science of the subject. This book takes precisely the opposite standpoint, the authors justifying their efforts by the rapid progress of research in the last decade which has enormously advanced our knowledge of the endocrinology of the menstrual cycle and some at least of its abnormalities, and has led to the widespread use of highly effective forms of hormonal contraception.

Anatomical, biological and biochemical aspects of the ovary constitute the first chapter, followed by morphological and biochemical aspects of ovulation. Next comes a chapter on the technology of hormone assay, a review of methods for the quantitative determination of oestrogens, progesterone, pregnanediol pregnanetriol, testosterone and pituitary gonadotrophins in body fluids. The importance of this chapter depends upon its providing the basis of most of the scientific advances described later. Many of these are dealt with in the next three chapters which cover hormone levels and effects during the normal menstrual cycle and in abnormal gynaecological conditions. In the following two chapters the subject is induction of ovulation in women with failure of that function; by Clomiphene in the first and by gonadotrophic hormones in the second. The last three chapters are concerned with contraception—oral, by intrauterine devices, and in relation to the world problem of over-population. Each chapter begins with an introduction, setting out the objectives, and concludes with a summary and an extensive and up-to-date bibliography. This is a most pleasing arrangement, especially as there are separate author and subject indices.

This is a scholarly work, objective, sound and of good judgment. It is not a textbook of the subject for clinicians; it does not, for instance, deal with the routine investigation of the infertile couple, with post-coital tests, tubal patency tests, surgical treatment and so forth. Nevertheless, it provides the scientific background, and sources of reference to it, that clinicians mostly lack, but can no longer afford to ignore.

G. I. M. SWYER

## MIGRATION

**Alvarez, J. H.** *Return Migration to Puerto Rico.* Berkeley, 1967. Institute of International Studies, University of California. Pp. xiv + 153. Price \$2.00.

MANY STUDIES of migration and migrants have dealt with the great primary movements of recent times. With some such movements at least, there has been an element of reversal—a proportion of the emigrants have returned home again. This partial offset has often been disregarded as being of a relatively minor character, but recently a particular interest has begun to be shown in the nature of the reaction and the people who participate in it. Which types of person return—is it the less successful, or those of a particular age or sex, or those with particular family ties? How long do they spend away from home? Do they return to their former place of residence, or do they find a new location in their country of origin? How does any such change of location tie in with the pattern of internal migration in that country?