

## Book Review

**Vaginal Cytology.** Grimaldo Carvalho, (ed.). New York, New York: Vantage Press, 1968. 163 p. \$5.95.

Dr. Carvalho's book, *VAGINAL CYTOLOGY*, offers an inexpensive, brief, and clear survey of the various uses to which vaginal cytology is now applied. The book presents an orderly approach to the diagnostic uses to which cytology may be put in clinical endocrinology, complications of pregnancy, diagnosis of malignancy, and prediction of radiation sensitivity. The author's long experience, not only with cytology but also with clinical gynecology, is apparent from the clinical references sprinkled throughout the text and the clear descriptive terms pertaining to the smears themselves.

The text is easy to read, the descriptions are clearly stated, and the pathologist's usual addiction to descriptive terms such as "beer bottle caps" and "tennis rackets" is used to good advantage to describe some of the unusual cellular morphology. The illustrative material is obviously derived from a large collection which makes available both common findings and the rare and unexpected. Although the illustrations are well selected and abundant, the lack of color is a disadvantage, and they are somewhat disappointing in that they are poorly reproduced in many of the plates. The illustrations are so plentiful that one feels that perhaps the text could have been placed in juxtaposition with the illustrations, thereby proving of greater advantage to the reader.

All controversy regarding the uses of cytology other than for the diagnosis of malignancy is omitted. The skeptical physician who does not readily accept the cytologist's ability to diagnose such entities as ectopic pregnancy, impending labor, impending abortion, and ra-

diation sensitivity will find little to convince him of the cytologist's claims. The material relating to these disorders is largely descriptive, and documentation of accuracy is not attempted. If not convincing, Dr. Carvalho's claims for the use of cytology in these entities is at least provocative.

The author and his associates are to be congratulated on producing a readable, convenient text that should find ready acceptance as a brief and clear review of the uses of cytology for those who are not actively engaged in this type of work. For the experienced cytologist and pathologist, Dr. Carvalho's observations regarding diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy, diabetes, and "phagocytic response" in patients undergoing radiation therapy should be a stimulus for further investigation.

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