REVIEW


Although to some extent concerned with those aspects of aerosol distribution and the apparatus which particularly concerns the publishers, this little work differs from the majority of productions of its kind by giving the reader a really clear, unbiased summary of the subject. Put very briefly an aerosol is a mist, so finely particulate that it does not wet the surfaces it meets, remains suspended in the air for long periods and penetrates into remote corners. According to its chemical composition an aerosol may be used for various purposes. Thus pyrethrum, lethane and now D.D.T., dispersed either by the 'Freon Bomb' or by the author's own electrically driven apparatus, are known to be highly effective in killing insects such as aeroplane-borne mosquitoes or those found in stores of tobacco, cocoa, flour and other commodities. It has been shown by Trillat, Mudd, Pulvertaft, Twort and numerous other observers that aerosols containing the glycols, resorcinol or the hydrochlorites and dispersed into the atmosphere of rooms will rapidly reduce the number of suspended viable bacteria which can be recovered from the atmosphere. Finally, as noted in the last number of this Journal in connection with aerosol penicillin dispersed in oxygen tents, a water-soluble drug inhaled in aerosol form can be readily absorbed via the lungs. As an insecticidal method the aerosol technique has already proved itself. The menace of cross infection through dust is sufficiently serious in hospital, particularly paediatric, practice to make the bactericidal application deserving of full systematic trial. Pure laboratory experiment has already given highly favourable results, and one awaits with interest the large-scale field trials which are most certainly worth making. Absorption of drugs by inhalation which, for their administration, have so far required repeated injections opens up obvious and very numerous possibilities. The author is certainly dealing with a method which probably has applications considerably wider than is at present generally appreciated in the medical world, and one can therefore recommend this summary as providing a highly useful introduction to a subject of the future.


The author defines the aims of this work as being the correlation and orderly arrangement of a mass of data otherwise scattered through the literature, the emphasizing of the obstetrician's viewpoint and responsibility, and the extension of his interest in this branch of his subject. It may be said at once that in the realization of these aims Dr. Stone has been singularly successful. The first chapter deals with the immediate care of the newborn, and includes a discussion on the treatment of asphyxia. This is followed by a useful section on the physiology of the newborn, after which the book follows the orthodox arrangement, viz. breast and artificial feeding, diseases of the various systems, and a final section on the premature infant. It is obvious that the author has read widely and critically: the numerous references are well chosen, and there is little recent work of established value which is not referred to. Obviously certain aspects of the subject, e.g. infant feeding, will be dealt with more fully and adequately in other works, but within the compass of one volume the author has certainly provided a most valuable handbook for those dealing with the newborn infant, either as obstetricians or paediatricians.