Surgical Management of the Diabetic Patient. Edited by M. BERGMAN and G. A. SICARD. Published 1990 by Raven Press, New York. No. of pages: 427. ISBN: 0-88167-720-5. Price at Jan. 1991: $112.50.

Diabetes is a unqiue disease, given its multifarious presentations and propensity for insidiously involving multitudinous organ systems simultaneously. Individuals with diabetes characteristically have significant underlying abnormalities in the absence of overt symptoms. It thus becomes the responsibility of the physician to assiduously investigate the presence of complications. This is particularly critical when diabetic patients undergo surgical procedures. It is not uncommon for certain manifestations (e.g. coronary artery disease, peripheral vascular disease, neuropathy and nephropathy) to become apparent for the first time during the preoperative evaluation. Failure to identify these complications can expose the individuals to greater risk than is already likely, given their diabetic status. This volume is the first comprehensive clinical reference on management of diabetic patients before, during, and after all types of surgery, from the early stages when surgery is considered through the predischarge planning stage and convalescent period. More than 30 leading experts in all relevant disciplines offer detailed recommendations on patient evaluation and monitoring, explain the precautions needed for patients with specific complications of diabetes, and describe the special interventions required during specific surgical procedures.

The following chapters are included:

—Carbohydrate metabolism and surgery;
—Medical management of diabetic patients during surgery;
—Nutritional support;
—Wound healing in diabetes;
—Surgery in diabetic nephropathy;
—Diabetes and cardiovascular disease;
—Syndromes of infection in diabetic patients;
—Emergency surgery in the diabetic patient;
—Medical considerations for diabetic patients undergoing outpatient surgery;
—Diabetic neuropathy;
—Hypertension in diabetes: principles and therapeutics;
—Pancreatitis and diabetes mellitus;
—Diabetes associated with other endocrine disorders;
—Surgical management of pediatric and adolescent patients with Type I insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus;
—Predischarge planning;
—Diabetic foot care;
—Diabetic foot management;
—Vascular surgery;
—Carotid artery disease in the diabetic patient;
—Cutaneous foot ulcers;
—Lower extremity amputation in the diabetic patient;
—Gastrointestinal surgery in diabetics;
—Urologic complications of diabetes;
—Renal transplantation in the diabetic patient;
—Pancreas and islet transplantation for the treatment of Type I diabetes mellitus;
—Diabetes and pregnancy;
—Surgery for obesity in the diabetic patient;
—Surgery in the patient with diabetic eye disease.

This book provides surgeons, anesthesiologists, and diabetologists with crucial information and practical guidance that is not available in any other single source, and would be useful also to clinicians, people working on carbohydrate metabolism, and advanced students.

Placental Communications: Biochemical, Morphological and Cellular Aspects. Colloque INSERM, Vol. 199. Edited by L. CEDARD, E. ALSAT, J.-C. CHALLIER, G. CHAOUAT and A. MALASSINE. Published 1990 by INSERM/John Libbey Eurotext, Paris, Montrouge. No. of pages: 301. ISBN: 2-85590-401-7. Price: $64.00 (softbound).

This book contains the *Proceedings of the IIIrd Meeting of the European Placenta Group*, held in Dourdan, France on 27–30 September 1989. The placenta is a complex structure with many metabolic and hormonal functions; it is thus a useful organ for the study of endocrine and paracrine regulation. Its limited life-span also makes it an interesting model for the study of growth and aging processes, and of cell division and differentiation. The trophoblast, which shares the fetus' genotype, is now widely used in ante-natal diagnosis: caryotype and enzyme studies are carried out on trophoblast biopsies and hormones secreted by the trophoblast could be biochemical markers of chromosome anomalies such as Down's syndrome.

The immunological functions of the placenta are important and its role in the implantation process is under current investigation. In this volume, experts in this field have discussed culture techniques, interactions between the trophoblast and the endometrial tissue, growth factors and differentaition, endocrinology and immunological receptors.

The following main topics are covered:

—Trophoblast–endometrium interactions;
—Endocrinology and biochemistry;
—Growth factors and differentiation;
—Trophoblast antigens and immunological aspects of feto-maternal relationship;
—Placental circulation;
—Physiology and placental transfer;
—Placental structure and pathology;
—Placental pathology: clinical aspects.

This volume would be very useful for gynecologists, biologists, physiologists, endocrinologists and clinicians.