

## BOOK REVIEWS

### HUMAN NUTRITION - NUTRITION AND GROWTH, PART-I

Ed. D. B. Jelliffe and E. F. P. Jelliffe  
PP xx+452, Plenum Press, New York

This book containing 21 chapters covers a vast number of topics in nutrition. The chapters contributed by out-standing nutritionists from all over the world including India have been written with up to date research data and practical applications. The various stages of life cycle are covered with pointers for nutritional assessment. Field investigators and research workers in nutritional anthropometry will find field oriented parameters for assessing growth failure. The illustrations are extremely good and will be found useful for presentation of research data.

P. PARVATHY EASWARAN

### PERINATAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY INCLUDING LOW BIRTHWEIGHT - SOUTH EAST ASIA REGIONAL PROFILE

WHO Regional Publications, South-East Asia  
(Regional Health Paper No. 3),  
Page-72, Price Sw. fr. 8.

Perinatal mortality and morbidity and the high incidence of low birthweight deliveries have been acknowledged to be problems of critical importance in the developing countries. A number of factors are associated with these - socio-economic status, education, age, pregnancy,

of the mother, her previous reproductive history, health and nutritional status. Babies of low birthweight and high birthweight are at special risk. Women who have had one pregnancy with an unfavourable outcome are prone to risk in the next pregnancy. This is a major factor underlying high rates of perinatal mortality and morbidity, and low birthweight. The identification of such women at high risk and the provision of special care for them are therefore essential.

However, data that would help in the assessment of the extent of the problem are not available in many countries. Hence WHO organized a collaborative study to produce accurate information on the pattern of pregnancy and its outcome, the intensity of the problem and the factors playing a major role, as an important step towards reducing perinatal mortality and the incidence of low birthweight. Five countries participated in this study: Burma, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

This publication contains the findings of the study. Largely in simplified, tabulated form, it presents the different types of data that have been collected and carefully analyzed, such as the incidence of low birthweight in live-born babies, perinatal mortality rates in low birthweight and normal birthweight deliveries, incidence of low birthweight by age of mother, etc.