To all our mothers, and all our daughters
Contents

Acknowledgments xi

Foreword xiii
ANN OAKLEY

INTRODUCTION

The American Way of Birth 3
PAMELA S. EAKINS

PART I. The Medicalization of Birth
1. The Medicalization of Birth 21
NANCY SCHROM DYE

2. From Natural to Surgical Event 47
DIANA SCULLY

3. Aggressive Intervention and Mortality 60
JANET CARLISLE BOGDAN
PART II. The Conduct of Birth

4. The Social Construction of Birth
   BARBARA KATZ ROTHMAN
   104

5. Male Doctor-Female Patient
   SANDRA K. DANZIGER
   119

6. Birth and Social Class
   MARGARET K. NELSON
   142

7. Cesarean Birth
   PAMELA S. SUMMEY
   175

8. Childbirth and the Malpractice Insurance Industry
   WENDA BREWSTER O'REILLY
   PAMELA S. EAKINS
   MYRA GERSON GILFIX
   GARY A. RICHWALD
   196

PART III. Woman-Centered Birth

9. Out-of-Hospital Birth
   PAMELA S. EAKINS
   218

10. Nurse and Lay Midwifery in Vermont
    REGI L. TEASLEY
    246

11. African American Midwives in the South
    LINDA JANET HOLMES
    273

12. Unionizing Midwifery in California
    DEBORAH LEVEEN
    292

EPILOGUE

A Note on the Future of American Birth
DOROTHY C. WERTZ
PAMELA S. EAKINS

About the Contributors
Index

331
341
345