CONTENTS

List of Illustrations ix
Acknowledgments xiii

Chapter 1 Conception: Nurse-Midwives and the Professionalization of Childbirth 1

PART I: Early Labor Pains, 1925–1940

Chapter 2 Eastern Kentucky’s Frontier Nursing Service: Mary Breckinridge’s Mission, Survival Strategies, and Race 31
Chapter 3 New York City’s Maternity Center Association: Educational Opportunities and Urban Constraints 72

PART II: Active Labor, 1940–1960

Chapter 4 Transitions: New Directions, New Limitations 105
Chapter 5 Traditions: Home Birth in a High-Tech Age 136
Chapter 6 Don’t Push: Struggling to Create a Political Strategy and Professional Identity 168

Epilogue Afterbirth: Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future 186

Notes 203
Bibliography 249
Index 265