

Her main commitment throughout her working life was to the Royal Eye Hospital, where during the war of 1939–45 she was one of the few members of staff not on active service. In the initial postwar period the hospital was amalgamated with King's College Hospital. This link was severed in the mid 1950s, and as chairman of the Medical Committee she skilfully steered the hospital through an inevitably disruptive period. In succeeding years she was a long-standing member of the Group Management Committee.

She was a deft and gentle surgeon and in the early 1950s, together with a colleague, devised a technique of exenteration of the orbit and postoperative fitting of a prosthesis, enabling young patients with sarcoma of the orbit to have a more bearable period of life which was left to them. Her calm, reassuring approach endeared her to her patients, and her colleagues found her to be a strong member of their team, with a refreshing humour. Postgraduate and undergraduate students benefited from her teaching, which she enjoyed, latterly imparting great wisdom gained from her experience and often punctuated by poignant anecdotes. She gave stalwart support to nursing matters, and her interest in her patients extended beyond the hospital. She possessed and developed a unique association with medical social workers on their behalf.

Although not a physically energetic person, particularly in later years, she enjoyed walking on holidays, visiting places of archaeological or wild fauna interest. A reluctant housekeeper and gardener, her main leisure enjoyment was reading, so that, despite her natural shyness, she was an interesting and entertaining conversationalist. She retired from practice 17 years ago, and her death is a sad loss.

DOREEN A. BIRKS

Book reviews

Adler's Physiology of the Eye: Clinical Application. 7th edn. Ed. ROBERT A. MOSES. Pp. 747. C. V. Mosby: London. 1981.

This book lives up to the high standard of production shown in the previous (1975) edition, and, as before, it is designed to emphasise the clinical aspects of its subject matter. As with any book having a multiplicity of authors there is both overlapping and omission, but in general the editor and his team are to be complimented on a most useful textbook.

Most of the sections have been updated and extended, but it is rather surprising to find that the discussion of retinal neurotransmitters in the section on retina and optic nerve is practically the same as in the 1975 edition and that there is no mention of the technique of specular microscopy in the section dealing with the cornea. The section previously headed 'Iris and Pupil' is now simply 'Pupil,' and, while some material has been deleted, the discussion of iris pharmacology has been updated. The section on visual acuity has been rewritten, and, by contrast with the 6th edition, very little is said about the use of gratings. One would also

have liked to see a little more about the role of timolol as an ocular hypotensive drug and some discussion of recent work on lens proteins.

These are, however, minor blemishes. On the positive side the new 'Adler' has a fresh lease of life in an edition only some 40 pages longer than its predecessor and containing as a new feature a 'Biological Index' which, apart from its intrinsic value to the reader, serves to indicate the importance of comparative studies in this field.

D. F. COLE

Guidelines for Programmes for the Prevention of Blindness. World Health Organization. Pp. 47. No price given. WHO: Geneva. 1979.

This is a work of reference which can be adapted as required for the planning of national or regional programmes for the prevention of blindness.

It was prepared at a meeting held in Asilomar, California, USA, in October 1978 and jointly sponsored by the WHO centre for reference and research on trachoma and other chlamydial infections, the FI Proctor Foundation, San Francisco, the International Eye Foundation, and the World Health Organisation.

There were 40 participants at the meeting representing the following countries—USA; Britain, Australia, Switzerland, China, Nigeria, Peru, Egypt, Guatemala, Upper Volta, Sri Lanka, Barbados, Kenya, and Indonesia.

It was agreed that most of the blindness that affects some 30 or 40 million people in the world mainly occurs in the less developed areas where malnutrition and infections are common, and it is potentially avoidable. The goal of the WHO programme for the prevention of blindness is to eliminate the burden of avoidable blindness, for which there are many simple and effective preventive measures that can be applied.

It was decided that the 4 principles for action in a national programme to eliminate avoidable blindness and visual impairment are: (1) the identification of communities with a high prevalence of avoidable blindness and determination of its cause; (2) the provision of early treatment to the worst affected communities by using preventive and therapeutic measures, and when there is an accumulation of patients in need of surgery (e.g., for cataract or distorted eyelids) surgical treatment should be carried out if a mobile surgical team is available; (3) the establishment of therapeutic and preventive measures for the promotion of eye health; (4) the improvement of ophthalmic services so as to provide an adequate referral system and a centre where supervision and training of personnel can be carried out.

It is emphasised that an effective blindness-prevention programme cannot be accomplished by the medical profession alone. Intervention must be based on the presence of cultural and social factors, general education, food production, nutrition, water supply, and transport, and it needs support from public and private sectors. An assessment of 'ocular status' (i.e., an investigation of the magnitude and causes of blindness within the region or country) is essential in order to plan an effective



Adler's Physiology of the Eye: Clinical Application

D. F. Cole

Br J Ophthalmol 1982 66: 743

doi: 10.1136/bjo.66.11.743

Updated information and services can be found at:

<http://bjo.bmj.com/content/66/11/743.1.citation>

These include:

**Email alerting
service**

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:

<http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions>

To order reprints go to:

<http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform>

To subscribe to BMJ go to:

<http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/>