

does at least expose them to the up-to-date assessment of current methods. The last chapter deals with complications and postoperative management. The author takes trouble to concentrate on fluid-gas exchange for post-operative problems arising from vitrectomy. It would perhaps have been appropriate for a discussion of the commonest complication of retinal surgery to have been included. This is of course failure of the procedure itself owing to an inadequately sealed retinal break, either due to a break that has been seen but inadequately closed or due to one that had been missed altogether.

Although it is rather expensive, the book is thoroughly enjoyable and informative, and I strongly recommend it to those entering ophthalmology who wish to become familiarised quickly with the principles of retinal surgery.

A CHIGNELL

The Eye in Systemic Disease. Eds. Daniel H Gold and Thomas A Weingeist. Pp 710. US\$87.50. Lippincott: Philadelphia, 1990.

This magnificent compendium comprises 20 parts and 230 chapters, each describing a different systemic disease. The number of chapters indicates the huge range of topics covered. They include chromosome disorders, infectious diseases, metabolic, skeletal, and skin disorders, as well as those diseases more familiar to ophthalmologists.

Each chapter is written by an expert with a personal interest in the subject and generally follows a similar format of introduction, systemic manifestations, ocular manifestations, and management. The section of systemic manifestations in each case is particularly useful for the ophthalmologist. This information is not found in any other ophthalmological textbook but has to be searched for in the appropriate medical encyclopedia. Overall the standard is very high, though some of the bibliography is old fashioned. This is more likely to be due to a defect of the time taken to produce such a book rather than the fault of the respective authors.

All multiauthor books vary in the standard of individual chapters. Generally the information is relevant and succinct, and the illustrations, though limited by necessity, are informative. However, the management section of a few chapters is conspicuous by its absence or lack of information, particularly those on tuberculosis, histoplasmosis, and toxoplasmosis. Fortunately the chapters that seem weakest overall are the ones concerning problems most familiar to the ophthalmologist, for example, Graves' disease and herpetic disease: it is likely that the authors' brief in these cases was practically impossible to fulfil, and all ophthalmologists know how to obtain additional information on these subjects.

This book is great fun to dip into and succeeds in giving the ophthalmologist a comprehensive introduction to the systemic diseases associated with eye problems. It is a welcome addition to the ophthalmic literature and should be an essential part of all libraries and particularly those in general hospitals. The editors should be congratulated on their tremendous effort and proud of their appropriate dedication to Samson Weingeist and Paul Henkind, the latter a master of the importance of the eye in the diagnosis and management of systemic disease.

ELIZABETH GRAHAM

A Manual of Systematic Eyelid Surgery. 2nd Edn. By J R O Collin. Pp 166. £18.50. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, 1989.

At a time when interest in ophthalmic plastic surgery is expanding and new operations seem to appear every month the updated second edition of this popular manual is a refreshing reminder of the well tried techniques. Richard Collin is a widely recognised teacher of ophthalmic plastic surgery, and the clear style and systematic approach reflect this. The concise step-by-step description of each operation is illustrated with excellent line diagrams by Mr Terry Tarrant, and flow charts simplify the decisions. Discussion is kept to a minimum, but this is balanced by suggestions for further reading.

Several changes have enhanced the value of the second edition. A new chapter on lacrimal surgery has been contributed by Mr Dick Welham. The revised approach to eyelid reconstruction includes new flow charts for posterior lamellar defects (symblepharon) and full thickness defects; the uses of local transposed flaps, omitted from the first edition, are described, and the principles of eyelid tumour management are discussed in more detail. A separate chapter is given to an expanded section on eyelid injuries which includes medial canthal tendon injuries and traumatic ptosis. Other additions to this edition include the dermofat graft and new flow charts for the management of thyroid eye disease and myogenic ptosis.

Successful surgery depends on translating the principles into practice – essentially, recognising the anatomy at operation. Experienced ophthalmic plastic surgeons will have no difficulty in following the diagrams accurately. Those with less experience may need help with some of the operations described. However, the particular appeal of this manual will be to general ophthalmic and plastic surgeons and those starting ophthalmic plastic surgery as a special interest. It is concise, comprehensive (an answer is offered for almost every circumstance), and very good value for money. Every medical library should have a copy, but most surgeons who operate on eyelids will want one of their own. Highly recommended.

A G TYERS

NOTES

Association for Eye Research

The Association will hold its 32nd Annual Meeting on 3–7 July 1991 at Århus, Denmark. Details from Professor N Ehlers, Department of Ophthalmology, Århus University Hospital, DK-8000 Århus C, Denmark.

£100 Award. The Association will award a Publication Prize of £100 sterling for the best paper on eye research published in the 12 months up to the meeting whose principal author (member or non-member) is under 35 at the time of publication. Closing date 1 May 1991. Details from Dr N J van Haeringen, General Secretary AER, Netherlands Ophthalmic Research Institute, PO Box 12141, 1100 AC Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Vision research course

The 12th annual course of the National Eye Institute, USA, will be on 'Clinical vision research: epidemiologic and biostatistical approaches' on 24–27 April 1991 at Longboat Key, Florida. Details from Christine Stewart, Maite Mavila, Stewart International Ltd, 87 Boylston Street, Brookline, MA 02146, USA. Tel: 617 738–1575. Fax: 617 738–8215.

Polish congress

The First World Congress of Medical Polonia (doctors of Polish extraction) will be held on 19–23 June 1991 at Czestochowa, Poland. Details from: Krzysztof Muskalski, MD, 1st World Congress of Medical Polonia, Dr Rydygier's Surgical Hospital, ul Mirowska 25, 42–200 Czestochowa, Poland.

Korea conference

The 4th International Cataract, Implant, Microsurgical and Refractive Keratoplasty (ICIMRK) meeting will be held at Seoul, Korea, on 8–10 May 1991. Further information from: Jae Ho Kim, MD, Department of Ophthalmology, Kangnam St Mary's Hospital, Catholic University Medical College, 505 Banpo-dong, Seocho-ku, Seoul 137–040, Korea. (Tel: 82–2–593–5141, 6121 (ext 1335). Fax: 82–2–533–6718.)

German Ophthalmological Society

The German Ophthalmological Society will sponsor an International Symposium in Bonn-Köln on 19 to 21 September 1991. The symposium will cover both clinical and research aspects of ocular infections and will include a basic sciences course. Further information from A A Bialasiewicz, MD, University Eye Hospital Bonn, Sigmund Freud Str 25, 53 Bonn 1, West Germany.

Endogenous ocular inflammations

The University Eye Clinic of Jena, Germany, will hold an international symposium on 'Endogenous ocular inflammations – Uveitis '91' on 2–6 October 1991 in Weimar/Thuringia sponsored by the Thuringian Ophthalmological Society. Further information from: Professor S Klein, Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, Bachstrasse 18, D-06900 Jena, Germany. (Tel: Jena 8223270.)

David Cole travel fellowship

The David Cole travel fellowship, instituted by Merck Sharp and Dohme in memory of Professor David Cole, will assist a visit to a hospital or research centre during the academic year starting 1 October 1991. The award will be equivalent to £2000. Its purpose is to enable the successful applicant to gain experience and knowledge in pursuit of a specific project related to glaucoma.



The Eye in Systemic Disease

Elizabeth Graham

Br J Ophthalmol 1991 75: 256
doi: 10.1136/bjo.75.4.256

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