

Electrodiagnostic Testing of the Visual System: A Clinical Guide. By Ronald E Carr and Irwin M Siegel. Pp 188. £33.61. F A Davis: Philadelphia, 1990.

This short textbook is very readable and contains the fruits of many years of experience in the clinical application of electrophysiological techniques. Those who have read the authors' previous textbook will find that this is a completely rewritten and new book and it includes much new information. There is, for example, a useful section on the pattern ERG. Unfortunately any textbook in this field is likely to omit some of the latest research developments – for example, scotopic threshold responses, but the commonsense approach in the book will be very refreshing for anyone contemplating the maze of literature already available. The book is primarily concerned with visual electrophysiological techniques from the point of view of the clinical ophthalmologist but I would recommend it to anyone with an interest in 'bioelectrics'.

NR GALLOWAY

Laser: Its Clinical Uses in Eye Diseases. 2nd edn. By Ian J Constable and Arthur Siew Ming Lim. Pp 208. £65.00. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, 1990.

This is the second edition of an already, and deservedly, popular book by two authors of international repute. It has been deliberately kept small, concentrating on current lasers and the treatment of ocular disorders routinely seen. It is aimed at updating the busy ophthalmic clinician, is easy to read, and is liberally illustrated with numerous excellent clinical photographs, angiograms, and diagrams.

It is divided into two sections, the larger being Laser Photocoagulation of the Posterior Segment and the smaller Anterior Segment Laser Applications. In the first section there are chapters covering the principles, techniques, limitations, complications, management, and treatment of conditions including diabetic retinopathy, other vasculopathies, central serous retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration and subretinal neovascularisation, tears, detachments, and tumours. In the second section there are chapters on the principles of YAG laser photodisruption, laser modalities in glaucoma, posterior capsule photodisruption, miscellaneous laser applications, safety, and some practical exercises.

The excellence of this book includes the photographs and illustrations, the chapters on complications, the photocoagulation management and treatment of diabetic retinopathy, disciform tears and detachment, and argon laser iridotomy. Some chapters could have been better and in particular it would have been useful to have had an expanded section on YAG laser iridotomy. There are numerous minor inaccuracies, some out-dated practices and photographs and some of the text is scientifically woolly. In some chapters the references could have been more up to date.

Laser technology is changing apace and there is only little mention of the excimer and diode lasers. There is now a plethora of newer therapeutic contact lenses and there is no mention of fundal examination non-contact lenses, such as the 90 dioptre.

Despite these faults it is a useful book and I would have no hesitation in adding it to our library.

J JAGGER

MCQs in Ophthalmology. By Anthony Vivian and Ruth Manners. Pp 190. £12.95. Butterworth-Heinemann: Oxford, 1992.

This book is a useful addition to the growing numbers of MCQ texts available for the postgraduate student in ophthalmology. The sections are clearly delineated and where explanations of the answers are deemed necessary, the authors present these in a clear and authoritative manner, though stating in the prefix that the reader might find some of the answers controversial or ambiguous.

This is a well prepared and useful aid for both the postgraduate student and teacher preparing for higher examinations.

J WILLIAMSON

Books received

Year Book of Ophthalmology 1991. By Peter R Laibson. Pp 292. £42. Wolfe Publishing: London, 1991.

Lens Surfacing Handbook. By Clifford W Brooks. Pp 138. £18.95. Butterworth-Heinemann: London, 1992.

All titles reviewed here are available from the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE. Prices include postage in the UK and for members of the British Forces Overseas, but overseas customers should add 15% to the value of the order for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque in sterling drawn on a UK bank, or by credit card (Mastercard, Visa, or American Express), stating card number, expiry date, and full name.

NOTES

How safe are the medicines you take?

A one day conference entitled 'How safe are the medicines you take?' will be held on 19 November 1992 at the Royal York Hotel, Station Road, York, YO2 2AA, UK. For further details: Conference Department, The Royal Society of Health, 38A St George's Drive, London SW1V 4BH. (Tel: 071-630 0121; Fax: 071-976 6847.)

Extended Programs in Medical Education

The Department of Ophthalmology, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, offers a course entitled 'Ophthalmic Surgical Complications: Oops – What Do I Do Now?' to be held 10–12 December 1992 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel and UCSF Campus, San Francisco. Further details: School of Medicine, Room LS-105, Extended Programs in Medical Education, University of California, San Francisco, CA 94143-0742, USA. (Tel: (415) 476-4251.)

Biomedical Optics '93

An international symposium sponsored by the Biomedical Optics Society will be held on 16–22 January 1993 at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles, California, USA. *Maiman Award:* The Laser Centers of America and the Biomedical Optics Society have established the Theodore Maiman Award to help authors of outstanding papers submitted to the symposium from countries where currency is not easily convertible. There will be up to 10 awards, each of \$2000. For further details: Biomedical Optics Society, PO Box 10, Bellingham, Washington 98227-0010, USA. (Tel: (206) 676-3290; Fax: (206) 647-1445.)

1993 Update in the Management of Age-Related Macular Degeneration – Optimal Fluorescein Angiography Workshop

This workshop will be held on 22–23 January 1993 at The Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Thomas B Turner Building, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD, USA. Further details: Program Coordinator, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Office of Continuing Education, Turner 20, 720 Rutland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA. (Tel: (410) 955-2959; Fax: (410) 955-0807.)

XIV Congress of Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology

The XIV Congress of Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology will be held on 24 to 28 January 1993 at the Hotel Sonargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh. For details please contact: APAO Secretariat, OSB Bhaban, PO Box No 8021, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh. (Fax: 880-2-804522.)

American Academy of Ophthalmology

The American Academy of Ophthalmology has released a clinical education videotape on phacoemulsification entitled 'Making the Transition to Phacoemulsification.' It is designed for extracapsular cataract extraction surgeons wishing to learn the technique. Price \$65 for academy members and \$85 for non-members. Further details: American Academy of Ophthalmology, 655 Beach Street, San Francisco, CA 94109-1336, USA. (Tel: (415) 561-8500; Fax: (415) 561-8567.)

Ro-Man-Aid

The Romanian Multiple Sclerosis Association is pleading for specialist equipment, especially diagnostic eye equipment, as they have none! Their list of priorities includes; biomicroscope, sets of lenses for prescriptions, ophthalmoscope, tonometer, sets of Snellen charts, books and sets of plates for testing for colour blindness (Ishihara, Velhagen, Rapkin, etc). If you have any suitable surplus equipment contact: Rosa Drown, Secretary, Ro-Man-Aid, 12 Bayr Grianagh, Castletown, Isle of Man. (Tel: 0624 823065.)



Books received

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