BOOK REVIEWS


Ophthalmic surgery gets bigger and better as the years go by; so does Stallard’s Eye Surgery. Since its previous edition appeared 7 years ago it has added 50 pages and 62 figures and its price has risen from £4 15s. to £6 6s. But considering the additions made it is indeed surprising that the space has been so effectively curtailed. The revision has been very complete and several chapters have been re-written, notably those on corneal grafts, retinal detachment, the treatment of ocular neoplasms by irradiation, and orbital and reconstructive surgery. New techniques have been incorporated, such as partial cylectomy, canaliculodacryocystorhinostomy, trabeculotomy, intraocular acrylic lenses, and the use of zonulysin in cataract extraction. The book, which has become a classic since its first appearance after the Second World War, will retain its place by the new edition.


The second edition of this comprehensive work on the complications of eye surgery has been brought up to date, and the section on retinal detachment surgery has been expanded to deal with the complications of encircling procedures. The multiple authorship in no way detracts from the effectiveness of the text, and acknowledged experts in each field have contributed to it.

The material exceeds the expectations of the title, and recommendations as to pre-operative preparations and surgical technique are frequent and helpful. This throws the emphasis on prophylactic rather than corrective methods, and increases the value of the book.

The later chapters deal with radiation, the medical aspects of complications following ophthalmic operations, and the features of endocrine exophthalmos. Helpful comments on low visual acuity and the estimation of loss of visual efficiency conclude the book.

It is a volume which should appeal equally to the experienced surgeon and to the resident in the course of his training. One of the best ways of avoiding complications is to know why they occur, and Fasanella has succeeded admirably in explaining the predisposing factors and the events which lead up to the complications.


Once again the contributions appearing in separate issues of “International Ophthalmology Clinics” have been combined in one volume. There are 31 contributions and much of the work has been published even before being grouped together in “International Ophthalmology Clinics”.


A symposium on the controversial aspects of the management of retinal detachment was held in Boston in May, 1962, the publication of which has now appeared. There were 60 collaborators from America and Europe in the discussion and their views and arguments (not always in accord) have been edited by Charles Scheppens and Charles Regan. The first section deals with pre-operative examination in which the generally admitted value of binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy

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is stressed as well as the usefulness and potential dangers of scleral depression. The section on operative treatment includes discussions on diathermic retinopexy, scleral buckling, the use of silicone implants and photocoagulation, as well as the injection of material into the vitreous. There is a section on complications encountered in surgery, two of the most important of which are ischaemic necrosis of the anterior segment after the operation of scleral buckling and erosion of the choroid by polythene tubing. In this connexion it is somewhat alarming to note that among 204 eyes removed after surgery for retinal detachment and sent to the Registry of Ophthalmic Pathology in Washington, 60 contained an unsuspected intra-ocular tumour. The final section discusses post-operative management and results; it is interesting that the general rate of successful operations is mounting to over 80 per cent., and surprising how often a condition which some years ago would have been considered as a hopeless surgical proposition can be cured, occasionally with unexpectedly useful visual results.


The chief purpose of this book is to compare the results of retinal detachment surgery at the Zurich University Eye Clinic in the years 1951 to 1953 with those of 1961 to 1963. Topics are put into perspective by reviewing the relevant literature and in the course of the text many modern surgical techniques are described and assessed. The most interesting technical contributions concern Kloti's modification of Rosengren's silver ball for posterior retinal holes and his use of fascia lata in detachment surgery in the place of synthetic materials. His arguments against the use of synthetic materials derive their support both from clinical experience and from his animal experiments.

In presenting the statistics all cases of retinal detachment are considered, including those patients not operated upon. The 1951–3 group was largely treated by diathermy and cathalysis puncture, and this group (with the interesting exception of those cases with dialyses) certainly fared less well than the later group with its more sophisticated management. Functional results of anatomically cured patients were assessed in terms of visual fields and visual acuity in relation to the duration of the detachment.

Surgical techniques and surgical results are notoriously difficult to evaluate and yet such evaluations are of the greatest importance to many branches of clinical ophthalmology. Dr. Kloti is to be congratulated on tackling this task in regard to retinal detachment in a most successful manner. Throughout the book it is obvious that he has thought deeply about his subject. Much modern work consists in perfecting techniques that enable us to fulfil Gonin's principles. Yet Dr. Kloti's countrymen have also made major contributions to work on the fundamental cause of retinal detachments, the retino-vitreal disorders. This book, while not claiming to be comprehensive, gives a modern and balanced account of retinal detachments from their clinical, therapeutic, and experimental aspects.


This textbook will provide the student with sufficient detail in corneal lens practice to enable him to fit the cornea of the routine refractive error patient. As a background there are chapters on the history of contact lenses, physiology, corneal topography, and workshop practice.

The use of several specialist contributors leads to uneven emphasis and repetition unless there is good editing. For example, the difficulties of lens insertion are discussed in aphakia as well as in normal routine practice. It appeared to the reviewer that the chapter upon astigmatism was too detailed in comparison with those chapters upon fitting techniques. Much of the theory in this chapter could be relegated to an appendix or to the chapter on optics. At the end of each chapter there is a list of references for the advanced student.

The 21 pages on scleral lenses in a textbook of over 300 pages belies the description of the book as "comprehensive and advanced". This section admits that details concerning the fitting of
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scleral lenses must be found in other texts. Yet the author states that possibly 50 per cent. of patients could be fitted with scleral lenses! The book is stated to provide a suitable text for optometrists and ophthalmologists, in that order. The latter may be satisfied with the routine practice described, but description of therapeutic techniques and the fitting of abnormal eyes is sadly lacking. It is regrettable that no ophthalmologist was asked to join the editors in the preparation of this book.

The author is incorrect in stating that hydrophilic material merges with the tissues. This does not occur. He is wise to indicate that the future success of such lenses is at present not known.

There is an obvious error in the formula on p. 409 and it should read \[ r = \frac{-2d \times h}{h}. \] This text could be improved by being more concise and less discursive without any loss of substance.

The ophthalmologist is at the cross-roads with contact lens practice. If he is to practise all contact lens techniques with some skill, as this text indicates, then some of his valuable time will be spent at the bench as a craftsman. He could limit himself to corneal lens techniques without a great deal of theoretical or workshop knowledge. He will then be at a loss in many instances when compared with a fitter who has developed the necessary craftsmanship for all procedures. The busy ophthalmologist must therefore work closely with a technician who can develop his ideas. One hopes that eye departments will recognize this need at this time. In Great Britain the remote liaison which in many cases exists between surgeon and fitter is to be regretted. It can only be to the detriment of the patient.


The 16th volume of *Advances in Ophthalmology* contains four original articles of unusual merit. The largest and most authoritative is an elaborate summary of mycotic infections of the eye by Hoffmann of Hamburg in which the many fungi with ophthalmological implications are described together with the ocular lesions they cause; the illustrations are excellent and the bibliography very complete. Weigel and his colleagues at Bonn have contributed an article on high myopia and its statistical incidence; Auricchio and Daniele of Perugia a summary of their researches into the aetiology of senile cataract involving chemical studies on the lens and the serum; and Wollensak of Erlangen contributes a long and excellent article on the zonule of Zinn including histological, electron-microscopic, chemical, and pathological studies.


This is an interesting and novel book comprised of a series of simple experiments in visual physiology originally designed by the late Gordon Walls and by Melvin Rubin for teaching and interesting students in visual physiology. The coverage of visual physiology is no means complete but embraces experiments on visual perception and localization, optics, the visual field and ocular movements, adaptation and brightness, visual acuity and colour vision; subjects more difficult to illustrate practically, such as diffraction, interference, and the Purkinje shift, are not included. There is little new or original in this collection, for most of the demonstrations have long been established, but as an attempt to "put von Helmholtz back into ophthalmology" it makes interesting and often amusing reading.


This is an interesting monograph giving a comprehensive discussion on the physiology and pathology of binocular vision. The first part deals with retinal correspondence, fusion, stereoscopic vision, retinal rivalry, and ocular dominance. In the second part the anomalies of binocular vision are discussed in general terms with special reference to anomalous retinal correspondence, the amblyopia of strabismus, and the sensory anomalies associated with ocular deviations.

It is a long time since a treatise on the anatomy of the eye has appeared in the French language, and this volume has all the merits of good French scientific literature—short, concise, and very complete. It is written primarily for senior students taking their certificate in ophthalmology but it will be useful to a much wider audience. The anatomy is discussed topographically in four parts—the ocular adnexa, the globe itself, the visual pathways and their central connexions, and the vessels and nerves subserving the visual apparatus. Recent advances in our knowledge of ocular anatomy have been integrated into the text, including electron-microscopic studies. Each section is preceded by a note on the appropriate embryology; the illustrations are numerous and excellent and the explanatory diagrams models of clarity.


The additions to the main work are examination of the patient (Ch. Boudet); tumours of the lids (G. Offret and Ch. Haye); pathology of the sclera (P. Brégeat and R. Campinchi); ocular helminthiasis (A. M. Larmande); the eye and drug intoxication (P. Brégeat and Ph. Demaill); central syndromes (P. Desvignes); ophthalmic migraine (P. François); and the psychosomatic attitude in ophthalmology (J. Mynard). As always, these contributions, written by acknowledged authorities, bring the Ophthalmology section of this vast encyclopaedia up to date.


This is one of the “Modern Health Series” and is a simple account of vision and its correction and care.


This short (and highly priced) monograph on pterygium is written by an author who has seen much of his subject in Queensland and given much thought to its occurrence elsewhere. Reviewing its geographical incidence so far as can be discovered from the literature, he finds its world distribution to be highest between the latitudes 30° north and south of the equator; in view of this, its preference for out-door workers, and its relatively rare appearance in those who have worn spectacles most of their lives, he agrees with the theory of Redslob that it is caused by short-wave light, and is essentially a neoplastic process comparable to skin cancer and hyperkeratoses. This theory explains fairly well its pathology and its tendency to recur. It is true that no neoplastic cells are present; but it is equally true that the essential histological elements are derived from the hyperplastic subconjunctival connective tissue and are locally invasive. Cameron agrees that the trauma of excision frequently acts as a stimulus for further growth, so that treatment by excision should be followed by beta-radiation, both being used as primary procedures. The aetiological evidence presented is admittedly not conclusive; but a convincing argument is offered.

COLOUR SLIDES IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

In response to numerous requests, all the coloured illustrations contained in An Atlas of Diseases of the Eye by Perkins and Hansell* are now available as 2 × 2 in. (5 × 5 cm.) card-mounted lantern slides and can be supplied in sets as a supplement to this text-book.

There are 199 transparencies in all, of which 103 concern the external eye and anterior segment; the remaining 96 consist of retinal appearances in systemic and local disease.

In order to keep the cost of these slides as low as possible, and because of the way in which they are produced, it is not possible to make them available except as full sets or half-sets.

Further details from: Medical Illustration Department, Institute of Ophthalmology, Judd Street, London, W.C.1.
