
This book is a useful introduction to the subject of neuro-ophthalmology. It is concerned with diagnosis, but starts with a résumé of normal visual function, then discusses the clinical approach to the patient and special methods of examination. The section on fluorescein angiography lacks clarity in describing the technique, and the use of abbreviations for the early and late phases of this procedure makes the text difficult to read. There are helpful chapters on electrodiagnostic tests and radiology. The latter covers the full range of techniques available, and the radiographs are in general accompanied by a line diagram to help in interpretation.

In subsequent chapters the authors have discussed conditions that present with similar symptoms or signs, arguing that this approach corresponds with that seen in clinical practice. This is helpful but sometimes necessitates dodging about the text to obtain a more complete clinical picture of one condition. The emphasis is on neurological diagnosis, and it must be remembered that the spectrum described does not always coincide with what is seen in an ophthalmic clinic. I think this enhances rather than detracts from its value as an introduction to a clinical field that many ophthalmologists in training find difficult.

Elizabeth M. Eagling


This is an excellent and well-produced book. It represents the chromatic world-view of someone who has contributed a great deal to the perceptual handling of colour, and students ‘with a minimum of technical or scientific background’ to whom the volume is addressed will romp through it with ease, profit, and enjoyment. Unencumbered as it is with any algebra graver than the simplest of fractions, it will appeal to everyone in the world of eyes, who will relish the simple harmony that pervades a subject which prejudice may have told them was difficult. The illustrations—both chromatic and black-and-white—are well chosen and instructive.

But the fact that, I think for the first time, we are faced with a Hurvich without the ever-present Jameson should sound a minatory note. Dorothea has turned to the study of the perception of art, an act of signal prescience, for in their own way this otherwise inseparable couple have demonstrated what many of us have been suspecting for a long time, namely that science is ephemeral but art lasts for ever.

R. A. Weale


The preface to this slim volume describes it as a pictorial guide to ophthalmology and not a comprehensive textbook. However, the author attempts a fairly comprehensive overview of all aspects of the subject including anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, disorders of the inner eye, the outer eye, trauma, cataract, glaucoma, squint, congenital deformities, and the involvement of the eye in systemic disease. This inevitably means very little text can be allotted to any subject, with only simple didactic statements. In these circumstances the book must stand or fall by the standard of its illustrations. It is unfortunate that many of them are taken with a camera primarily intended for fundus photography. As a result the fundus pictures generally are good, but the apparatus produces a strange, remote view of the outer eye, and these circular pictures contrast badly with the more conventional photographs of face and lids. The quality of reproduction is on the whole excellent and serves only to enhance the poor quality of some of the original photographs. Skin colour is often abnormal; in particular the pictures of a corneal abscess are of very poor quality and should be replaced in a future edition. A blue bias spoils some of the other figures and is particularly upsetting in the section discussing the appearances of the optic disc. Various shades of blue, yellow, and white optic discs appear with descriptions which frankly do not support the illustrations. I think the uninformed observer would find it difficult to make the distinctions using the illustrations provided.

There is no doubt that a large collection of photographs of this kind are an ideal vehicle for teaching, with personal explanation, as an introduction to the subject of ophthalmology. In the absence of a teacher and with only limited text, illustrations for an atlas of this kind need to be of an altogether higher standard.

Peter Wright

Notes

Contact lens technology
The Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, will hold its annual course in Contact Lens Technology on 4–6 December 1983. This course is open to all ophthalmologists, residents and fellows in ophthalmology, and technicians sponsored by an ophthalmologist. Details from Bette McAninch, Contact Lens Technology Course, Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX 77030, USA.

Oculoplastic surgery
The Oculoplastic Society will hold a combined meeting with the International Facial Surgery Seminar on 18–25 February 1984 at Rose Hall Inn, Montego Bay, Jamaica. Details from Ms J. Weschner, c/o Dr P. Guibor, 630 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021, USA.

Laser meeting
The New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology will hold its 33rd Annual Symposium on ‘The laser in ophthalmology’ and ‘Glaucoma update’ at Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, on 1–5 March 1984. Details from the Executive Secretary, New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology, 2025 Gravier Street, Suite 512, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA.