
The author of this work has included Oxford and Edinburgh in his academic training, and so one expects to find in his book evidence of thoughtful care in observation and exposition, as is indeed the case.

In writing a book for the guidance of the general practitioner, the ophthalmologist must choose between two objectives: either spot-lighting those conditions wherein the general practitioner’s initial action is crucial, as notoriously in congestive glaucoma, or presenting a meticulous but balanced survey of the subject as a whole. The author has chosen the latter objective, indicating as he says “the ways in which dangerous disease of the eye may be recognized”, and guiding the general practitioner in his eternal duty of interpreting to the patient the specialist’s report and advice.

Part I is concerned with the eye itself and its diseases, and with the objective of the book in mind, it would perhaps have been as well to warn the reader of the depth of the upper conjunctival fornix and its knack of hiding even large foreign bodies, and in Chapter IV on “The Watery Eye” there is no mention of the lash impacted in the punctum. These are very small points, and the diseases of the conjunctiva and the problems of epiphora are comprehensively dealt with. The cornea and its diseases are well described. Fig. 11 illustrates hypopyon ulcer, and, although the coloured illustrations are well reproduced, the essentials of the condition are not revealed in Fig. 11, nor do Figs 12 and 16 give an adequate picture of dendritic ulcer and penetrating corneal ulcer respectively.

The difficult subject of intra-ocular inflammation is well described in Chapter VI, and the aims in investigation and treatment outlined. Non-vascular diseases of the retina are treated separately, Fig. 19 showing detachment is a perfect illustration, refusing to encourage the reader to expect to see something like a papal flag flying in the breeze. The other retinal diseases are described under cardio-vascular, endocrine, and metabolic disease. I find no mention of colour vision, probably wisely omitted.

Trauma is treated in Chapter XII, and a brief chapter on ametropia includes a useful page on contact lenses. Chapter X describes neatly, briefly, and clearly the problems of squint, both concomitant and paralytic. The pathology of glaucoma is described and its diagnosis and treatment outlined. Possibly it would have been wise to add emphasis to the gravity of the condition and the necessity of adequate treatment.

The book concludes with the social aspects of blindness, a useful list being given of the advantages to the patient of registration as a blind person. In some counties (at least in England) the branches of the Society for the Blind are active and helpful to both the general practitioner and the patient, and in such areas there would be no need to approach the Local Authority. The scope of the Supplementary Ophthalmic Service is described.

The book is a most useful addition to ophthalmological studies and covers in its 152 pages of good type and paper a wide field within self-imposed limitations.