BOOK REVIEWS


Gonioscopy is widely accepted as a useful diagnostic procedure but considerable experience is needed before the appearance of the structures in the angle of the anterior chamber can be interpreted reliably. The literature of ophthalmology contains numerous coloured reproductions of ophthalmoscopic views of the fundus and slit-lamp appearances in ocular disease, but, as is only to be expected with a technique of more recent origin, gonioscopic illustrations are comparatively few. Also, practical instruction in gonioscopy is more difficult than in ophthalmoscopy or in slit-lamp microscopy, since most patients can tolerate repeated examinations by a small group of students using these methods, whereas gonioscopy necessitates prolonged retention and repeated manipulation of a contact lens if the view is to be seen by more than one observer. For these reasons, this volume will be welcomed by those who wish to learn about the appearance of the angle and by those who endeavour to teach gonioscopy to students.

The first part of the book enumerates the diagnostic uses of gonioscopy, and summarizes its value in classifying glaucoma, in recognizing congenital anomalies, and in examining neoplastic and traumatic changes in the angle as well as the results of surgical intervention. This first section can be read in a few minutes and it is a pleasing feature of the book that no description is unnecessarily lengthy.

The second part, in which more space is occupied by photographs and diagrams than by words, deals with the equipment needed for gonioscopy. Here it is perhaps a matter for regret, but certainly not for criticism, that the technique principally described is that using the Koeppe lens, the Barkan illuminator, and a suspended counter-balanced microscope. The author of this book is probably convinced that this technique gives a view superior to all others, and in his hands one can well believe that this is so. Nevertheless, those who have not acquired his degree of skill and who possess only a standard apparatus for slit-lamp microscopy will probably prefer to use an indirect gonioscopic lens, such as that introduced by Goldmann, and this will give them a view of the angle which differs sometimes in a few subtle details from that revealed by the Koeppe lens.

The third part, again characterized by useful illustrations and verbal economy, is devoted to a description of the anatomy of the angle of the anterior chamber of the eye. A minor criticism is that the term "angle recess" is mentioned four times on page 29, but is never defined with precision nor indicated in any of the beautifully clear pictures and diagrams in the rest of this section. This is surprising because, in the next section, showing illustrations of the angle in clinical cases, the "angle recess" is indicated many times, although the reader may still be left in some doubt as to its exact location.

It is this final part of the book which is the most important, the most useful, and the most impressive, for here we find a series of 56 excellent drawings, mostly of gonioscopic views, each well labelled and accompanied by just the correct amount of written description. But there is more to it than this. Inside the back cover, contained in an envelope, there is a collapsible stereoscopic viewer, and tucked away inside the front cover there are coloured stereophotographs. It will be a very strong-minded reader who does not first sample some of this visual entertainment before scanning any of the text. However, this is not just a book with a "gimmick", because the photographs provide depth and colour
and thereby add true value to these reproductions of gonioscopic appearances. Obviously, the views are not exactly the same as would be obtained in examination of the patient, but, generally speaking, a surprisingly similar visual impression is obtained. Each stereoscopic view corresponds to a black-and-white diagram in the final section of the book, so that, together with the written description, there is a threefold attempt to convey to the reader the appearances of the angle of the anterior chamber. Bearing in mind the photographic obstacles which had to be overcome, one is not surprised that sometimes it is difficult to see as much in the coloured slides as the diagrams would lead one to suppose, but usually there is a good correspondence between the two types of illustration, and one quickly reaches the conclusion that this method of presentation has been most successful. The gonioscopic appearances shown include those found in the normal eye, in simple, closed-angle, and secondary glaucoma, in congenital anomalies, and in various inflammatory, traumatic, and neoplastic conditions involving the angle of the anterior chamber.

It was noticed on page 35, that there is a reference to "Fig. 27" when it is clear that some other figure is meant. Also, on page 77, a description of the angle in infantile glaucoma contains the sentence "Through its translucent tissues the dark colour of the ciliary body, SC, is visible"; this is confusing because SC is used in other diagrams always to designate Schlemm's canal and it is this latter structure which appears to be indicated in the diagram accompanying this description.

Dr. Robert Shaffer and those who helped him are to be congratulated on the production of this volume, which is a valuable contribution to ophthalmology and an excellent aid to those wishing to learn more about gonioscopy.


The final volume of this work is devoted to two subjects that relate the study of ocular function to the closely allied sciences of physics and psychology. In the first section, on visual optics, a difficult task has been accomplished well. The presentation is clear, the subject matter is purposely kept reasonably elementary, and the mathematics is admirably concise where it could have been allowed to run riot. Some ophthalmologists may find the repeated use of the vergence notation a little perplexing at the outset, but its advantages soon become apparent. Optics, a subject that has little intrinsic appeal to most ophthalmologists, is treated here in refreshing fashion in spite of the paucity of new work in the field.

The second section, devoted to the optical space sense, attacks perhaps not quite so successfully a subject in which the difficulty springs from a diametrically opposite direction to that which besets optics. Here, in the borderland between physiology, psychology, and even philosophy, there is a plethora of phenomena, of recent experiments, and of theories. K. N. Ogle, the author, is himself a major contributor to many aspects of this fascinating discipline, and it is especially in these aspects that the discussion and sifting of conflicting views is of a high order. This standard is not quite maintained in dealing with those topics of which the author has no direct experience. To the ophthalmologist this section may seem a little remote in view of the lingering doubt concerning the clinical importance—save in a few well-recognized conditions—of aniseikonia.

This whole volume is clearly destined to be a source book and can be highly recommended.


In a symposium consisting of fourteen chapters published in 1962 one would have expected to find something about eccentric fixation and pleoptic treatment, but this is scarcely mentioned except in the report of the round-table discussion.
Some of the best chapters are those written by H. W. Brown in his “Aids to Diagnosis”. There are many useful tips and the explanation of how to use Dr. White’s diagnostic card is most helpful. This card, if accurately completed with the necessary data, gives a graphic picture, not only of the measurement of deviation in various directions of gaze, but also information as to binocularity. Brown’s chapter on “The Complications of the Surgical Management of Strabismus” is of much practical value, but it is surprising that he does not urge the desirability of a thorough search for the inferior rectus and re-suturing of the muscle to the eyeball in those cases (rare we hope) in which this muscle has been divided in mistake for the inferior oblique. His chapter on “Strabismus in the Adult” is full of well-illustrated case records. Here it is interesting to read that such congenital anomalies as the “superior oblique tendon sheath syndrome” may improve spontaneously in the course of changes associated with growth.

Jampolsky’s chapter on the “A and V” syndromes is clear and helpful but he gives no definite hint of precisely where the V syndrome begins and the normal physiological variation ends. Moreover, are these really syndromes? Why not call them “A and V phenomena”? He has also contributed a useful chapter on the management of small-degree esodeviations which is full of common sense.

Henderson’s chapters on “Neuro-anatomy” and the “Neurology of Amblyopia” give a useful review of these subjects and an excellent list of references, and Cogan’s chapter on “Nystagmus” is a helpful summary of the essentials that the ophthalmologist needs to know.

Marshall Parks deals with the problem of concomitant strabismus in children and how to tackle them from every angle.

Berke’s chapter on the “Surgical Treatment of Horizontal Non-paralytic Strabismus” enunciates a number of important principles, although the Table given on p. 181 fails to show how the deviations are measured. In his chapter on the “Surgical Treatment of Hypertropia” his statement that “the surgical procedure for most patients with hypertropia needing surgical correction should be one designed to weaken the overactive oblique muscles” can hardly be accepted, even allowing for the presence of the word “most”. His excellent pre- and post-operative photographs would have been more valuable had there been some measurements of the deviation rather than the mere statement “good muscle balance”.

As with most books of multi-authorship there tends to be a fair degree of overlapping, especially on the subject of surgical technique and complications, which might have been avoided by careful editing.

The production and illustrations are excellent, but it is a pity that the proof-reading has not been more careful, for there are many mistakes, for instance “been” for “seen” (I. 6, p. 111), “increasing” for “decreasing” (II. 4 and 5, p. 157), “amblyotic” for “amblyopic” (I. 10, p. 248), and incidentally Fig. 172 depicting Case 16 appears to show somewhat more than simple paresis of the left inferior rectus and exotropia; there seems also an obvious defect of laevol-elevation of the left eye.

This book should certainly be read and studied by all ophthalmologists who take a real interest in the subject of squint.


In 1962 the original German version of this volume was reviewed in this Journal (46, 318, 1962). It has now been excellently translated by R. K. Daily and L. Daily of Baylor University, Texas, U.S.A., and will undoubtedly command a wider circulation as a result.

An excellent general survey of filariasis, including brief notes on the ocular lesions.


Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest.

Volume 2 of this Atlas, which maintains the high standard set by Volume 1, deals with the anterior chamber, choroid, lens, glaucoma, optic disc, retina, orbit, lacrimal apparatus, and ocular muscles. The illustrations again form the major interest of the book and depict admirably the pathological processes which affect the ocular tissues and structures.

NOTES

CONRAD BERENS EYE FOUNDATION

The Conrad Berens Eye Foundation, Inc. announces the formation of this International Eye Film Library supported by the Alcon Laboratories, Inc., of Fort Worth, Texas; Davis and Geck, Division of American Cyanamid Company, Danbury, Conn.; and Cyanamid International. This non-commercial Library will make available throughout the world selected teaching films in all branches of ophthalmology and allied subjects. International Eye Film depots for the distribution of films have been or are being established in Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Tokyo, Manila, Bangkok, Athens, and Jerusalem, as well as in India.

Inquiries from Britain concerning the function and facilities of the International Eye Film Library may be directed to the English Consultant, Mr. T. Keith Lyle, Institute of Ophthalmology, Judd Street, London, W.C.1., or to the Administrator, Miss Patricia Rainier, 246, Danforth Avenue, Jersey City 5, N.J., U.S.A. The films may be obtained from Davis and Geck, Danbury, Conn. U.S.A.

CONTACT LENS SOCIETY

1 International Congress, 1964

The Contact Lens Society is to hold its first international congress on May 25–29, 1964, at the Pump Room, Bath. All inquiries regarding the Congress should be addressed to the Congress Secretary, William Gummer, 128 Blackfriars Road, London, S.E.1.

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY, TEXAS

New research facilities for the Institute of Ophthalmology at Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, were dedicated on November 13, 1962. The new building will provide laboratory space for pathology, surgery, virology, immuno-chemistry, tissue culture, biochemistry, bacteriology, physiological optics, biophysics, and electrophysiology.