BOOK REVIEWS


In this small book the author describes 21 syndromes in which the eye may be involved. These syndromes he divides into two groups: those with involvement of the osseous system, and those without.

In the first group of conditions he describes the phakomatoses (von Recklinghausen’s disease, Bourneville’s disease, Sturge-Weber syndrome, Moon-Bardet-Biedl syndrome, retinitis pigmentosa due to drugs, retinitis pigmentosa following virus infections, van der Hoeve’s syndrome, Marfan’s syndrome, and Weill-Marchesani’s syndrome).

The second group of conditions he divides into three classes: infectious syndromes (toxoplasmosis and the rubella syndrome), the ectodermatoses (Rothmund’s syndrome, Werner’s syndrome, xeroderma pigmentosum, and von Hippel-Lindau’s disease), and the cranio-facial dysostoses (Apert’s syndrome, Crouzon’s syndrome, oxycephaly, mandibulofacial dysostosis, Hurler’s syndrome, and hypertelorism).

Although the individual descriptions of these various conditions are interesting and include case reports of patients seen by the author, it is difficult to understand for whom this book is intended. The standard textbooks on genetics in ophthalmology describe all these conditions, and many more, and the author’s classification of these conditions is neither standard nor, in the reviewer’s opinion, of clinical value.


This is a sensible and well-written book that neither coddles nor pities the sightless child or his parents. In clear-cut terms the author outlines those steps necessary to help a visually handicapped infant become a secure and competent individual. Perhaps the most important concept stressed in the early part of the book is that the sightless child “does not know that he is blind”, and his needs are identical with those of other children even though his training is obviously more difficult. As the child grows up he will need special schooling, and the variety of available educational opportunities is discussed at some length. The chapter on problems faced by the adolescent blind, particularly those dealing with sexual curiosity and dating, is rather sketchy and could be expanded.

This book, in spite of its American orientation, is recommended reading for ophthalmologists and in fact for anyone dealing with blind children.


This book is intended as an atlas for ophthalmologists although it should prove useful to all who are interested in the ocular fundus. It contains 166 reproductions of retinal colour photographs, most of which are of excellent quality. A physician or ophthalmologist who needs a reference book which contains reproductions of almost all the common retinal diseases, and many rarities, could do no better than purchase this book.

The book is comprehensive but there are some omissions. The only example of a white vascular “ghost” is headed “Syphilitic Vasculitis” and such an appearance is not shown in the sections headed “Branch Arterial and Venous Occlusions”, although these are much more common causes of that appearance.
NOTES

Each photograph is accompanied by two or three concise and accurate sentences describing the
appearances. There follows a clinical note occupying about one-third of a page. These notes
are not very helpful in many instances, particularly in the patients whose retinopathy was part of
a systemic disease.

The standard of production is high but the price, 8 gns., for a book of 270 pages may put off
individual purchasers. It should prove useful in medical libraries.

NOTES

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The annual Alumni Day and Walter Wright Lectureship will be held on Friday, February 26,
1965. The Alumni meeting and Senior Residents will present papers for the
Alumni Prize. The Walter Wright Lecture will be given by Dr. Robert N. Shaffer of San Francisco,
on “Changing Trends in Glaucoma”. Following the meeting there will be a dinner at the Royal
York Hotel, attendance at which should be registered with Dr. R. K. MacDonald, Chairman of
the Section of Ophthalmology, Academy of Medicine.

AUSTRIAN SOCIETY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

The ninth annual meeting of the Austrian Society of Ophthalmology will be held on May 24–26,
1965 in Velden/Wörthersee, Kärnten. Closing time of registrations for scientific contributions
is March 1, 1965. All inquiries and registrations are to be sent to: Dr. Georg Zehetbauer, Vienna
Academy of Medicine (Wiener Medizinische Akademie), Wien, IX, Alserstrasse 4.

SECOND CONGRESS OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Geoffrey Serpell (Melbourne)

The Second Congress of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology was held in Melbourne
from April 5 to 10, 1964. Sir Norman Gregg of Sydney was President. The scientific
programme also represents the scientific sessions of the 24th Annual Meeting of the Ophthalmo-
logical Society of Australia (A.M.A.), the host society for the Academy and its Congress in 1964.

The theme of the meeting was “The Prevention of Blindness in the Asia-Pacific Area”. Papers
were contributed to this symposium by P. S. Reddy (India), R. Ebenezer (India), A. Nakajima
(Japan), R. C. K. Loh (Singapore), S. Wangspa (Thailand), A. S. M. Lim (Singapore), J. C. Chang
(Hong Kong), and W. E. Gillies (Australia).

A second symposium on “Viral Diseases of the Eye” was contributed to by H. Fujiyama (Japan),
R. L. Woolridge (U.S.A.), W. Howarth (Australia), P. J. Thygeson (U.S.A.), J. D. Brosnan (New
Zealand), and D. R. L. Hart (Australia).

A Basic Science Course of three one-hour lectures on “Recent Advances in Basic Science
pertaining to Ophthalmology” was held. The basic sciences considered were genetics, by A.
Nakajima (Japan), pathology, by C. H. Greer (Australia), and physiology, by Peter Bishop
(Australia).

Twenty-one free papers were presented by members from all countries represented in the
Academy on a variety of subjects in the fields of medical ophthalmology, glaucoma, operative
surgery, and corneal diseases and keratoplasty.

An interesting series of medical films was shown and an important scientific exhibition was on
display. The ophthalmic lesions of leprosy were well shown by R. Ebenezer, of India, seen side
by side with modern electron microscopic studies of melanin granules (H. Fujiyama, Japan), the
human retina (H. Ikui, Japan), Oguchi’s disease (Y. Kuwabara, Japan), and the trachoma agent
(Y. Mitsui, Japan). Demonstrations were presented of “Retinoblastoma” by U. M. Carbajal
(Philippines), “Pituitary Tumours” by R. Hooper (Melbourne), “Ocular Tumours” by C. H.
Greer (Melbourne), “Herpetic Kerato-uvitis” by P. J. Thygeson (U.S.A.), and “Fungal
Keratitis” by S. Puttanna (India) while Poh Lam Wong (Penang) showed “Test Type in Chinese
Script”, a demonstration which re-iterated the international character of this meeting of ophthal-
mologists.

A Trades Exhibition was also successfully arranged and this proved most popular.

The next meeting of the Academy is to be held in four years’ time in Malaysia, and R. C. K. Loh
has been nominated President of the Congress.