BOOK REVIEWS


This is a large, well-illustrated text-book which discusses exhaustively all aspects of tonography. It should find its way into the libraries of glaucoma clinics, particularly those which are situated far away from highly developed special centres. The detail is accurate and practical as well as theoretical.

The book opens with a history of the method and the theory behind its development. There follow chapters on instruments, laboratory requirements, technique, and sources of error. The tonogram is then considered in diagnosis and as a guide to treatment. Applanation tonometry is described and related to its place in measuring outflow from the eye. The perlimbal suction cup is also discussed. Lastly, the question of how the information should be recorded is carefully answered, based on the author's experience.

The book is lavish in design and in illustration. It is written for the uninitiated, so that a tonographic laboratory could be set up and could operate on the information given. Some readers will find the repetition of its counsels a little irritating—others may be most grateful. The reviewer would favour pruning and more verbal discipline in future editions.


This is a short handbook of ophthalmology suitable for the undergraduate student and general practitioner—short, concisely written, and informative, relieved by a large number of semi-diagrammatic illustrations which are eminently suitable for illustrating the points made in the text. It is a good introduction—by a number of Swiss collaborators including Professor Brückner—to the more advanced text-book published for a more sophisticated audience.


The inability of a child to read is a relatively common defect that is often brought to the notice of the ophthalmologist who sees him as a patient with a view to correcting any visual defect. On this subject there is now considerable literature, some of it in medical but most of it in educational journals. This small volume written by two American professors of education provides a good practical survey of the condition and what can be done to remedy it. The defect, occurring in intelligent children, is conveniently divided into two categories as it affects those who can be improved by careful teaching and those who can be helped only with difficulty or not at all. In the first class the aetiology embraces a somewhat vague combination of physiological, intellectual, sociological, and emotional factors. The second class is the more interesting. In these children the dyslexia, often familial in incidence, affecting the population of most Western countries equally, is often associated with other disabilities such as dysgraphia, various types of agnosia, disorientation, and a high incidence of left-handedness, and the defects tend to persist throughout life. They can, however, frequently be helped by education in specialized reading clinics, and in this volume detailed descriptions are found of the most useful techniques which may solve this difficult problem.

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The second edition of Walter Atkinson's excellent manual on anaesthesia in ophthalmology has now appeared after an interval of ten years. The days of the necessity of having a team of stalwart theatre orderlies to supplement the effects of the sleep-sponges or the alcohol of the Middle Ages have now long since passed and any ocular operation can be performed at leisure in peace and quiet. Today general anaesthesia is used increasingly in ophthalmic surgery because of the length and complexity of many of the surgical procedures which have now become common practice, and in this small volume the many techniques available for sedation, akinesia, local analgesia, and general anaesthesia are described in detail in a clear and concise manner with the aid of useful (and sometimes gay) illustrations. The book is well worth reading.


This work has a highly original approach to an already well-ventilated subject. It makes use of programmed learning, and takes the form of a series of statements, each of which is followed immediately by a question.

The question has to be answered before proceeding to the next statement. There are over a thousand steps involved in working through the whole text, and a very fair mixture of the theoretical and the practical in the style is used to deal with the various aspects of refraction.

Some doubt might be felt about the value of the new approach in teaching the subject to the complete novice. However, the most bored established ophthalmologist is likely to have his interest aroused by the novelty of presentation; he is also quite likely to emerge somewhat chastened at the realization of the parts of the subject he has forgotten. The work may perhaps best be recommended as a birthday gift for the over forty-fives of our speciality, and also for those preparing for examinations.


In this latest ophthalmological "cahier" to the Medical-Surgical Encyclopaedia the following subjects are brought up to date: Embryology of the eye (F. Hervouet and P. Sourdille); radiological examination (Ch. Boudet); conjunctivitis (R. Nataf and G. Coscas) comprising generalities and semiology, catarrhal conjunctivitis, purulent conjunctivitis, "false membrane" conjunctivitis, allergic and vernal conjunctivitis; conjunctival tumours (G. Offret and Ch. Haye); disseminated sclerosis (P. Brégeat and Ph. Demailly); and description and identification (P. F. Ceccaldi).


The two large volumes describing the effects of ionizing radiation on the eye, written by Haye, Jammet, and Dollfus, fully maintain the excellent sequence of annual reports brought out by the French Ophthalmological Society. The 1,444 pages include all aspects of the subject. The physics and biology of these radiations, their sources (medical, professional, military, and so on), their measurement, and methods of protection from their effects, constitute the introduction. The remainder of the two volumes is devoted to ophthalmology. In the first place, ocular lesions caused by radiation are fully described, and in this, the original work performed by the authors during the preceding four years in the Department of Health Protection of the Commission of Atomic Energy is included; subsequently, the lesions for which radiation may be used as a method of treatment are discussed in detail. The work is unique in its comprehensiveness, and the bibliographies are unusually complete.