BOOK REVIEWS


This English translation of Der Augenhintergrund, originally published in 1964, is intended to supplement lectures in ophthalmology and to aid the medical student and physician in the examination and diagnosis of fundus lesions.

An initial section on methods of examination includes lateral illumination, transillumination, direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy, and retinoscopy. The description of retinoscopy, however, is probably insufficient for someone wishing to learn this technique, and superfluous for one who has mastered it.

The main part of the book comprises about 100 excellent coloured illustrations of the normal and abnormal fundus with a concise description of each condition, sufficient for medical students and physicians. The various conditions are subdivided into anomalies and congenital malformations, anomalies of refraction, diseases of the optic nerve, diseases of the retina, and diseases of the choroid.

Some errors and inaccuracies occur in the text and in places the English is obviously a translation and could be improved. Despite these criticisms this book can be recommended to medical students as a well-illustrated and simple atlas of abnormalities of the fundus.


This is the first volume of a series of atlases on external diseases of the eye, published to fulfil the numerous requests for copies of the excellent stereoscopic slides used in teaching students at the Harvard Medical School and residents at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

The subjects covered in this volume are congenital anomalies and eye manifestations of systemic diseases and most of the common and many of the rarer disorders are described. Each condition is briefly described, and a typical case is then presented, illustrated by coloured stereoscopic slides or black-and-white diagrams.

The division of congenital anomalies on an anatomical basis and of systemic diseases on an aetiological basis is excellent, and the descriptions are succinct and well-written, being ideal for the student ophthalmologist. It is, however, the stereoscopic slides that make this book outstanding for teaching purposes and it is a pity that few students will be able to afford the prohibitive price of this otherwise highly-recommended volume.


Sachenweger's name is a household word where squint and amblyopia are in question and this short text sets out the problems of the prophylaxis and treatment of amblyopia. One has the impression that the book is intended for a much wider public than ophthalmologists only, including family doctors and other health workers. It begins with basic considerations of the normal development of vision (visual acuity, fixation, and directional localization), symptomatology of strabismic amblyopia, methods of diagnosis of strabismus and amblyopia, methods of prophylaxis, and early treatment. Strabismus is still the Cinderella of ophthalmology, often relegated to juniors with the kindly supervision of the orthoptist. Sachsenweger puts strabismic amblyopia into statistical perspective. To mention only one fact: poor vision in one eye in persons under 45 years of age is due as frequently to squint as to all other causes put together. The writing is a model of clarity, the argument is convincing, and the book is highly instructive beyond what the title would suggest.