BOOK REVIEWS


Fluorescence angiography of the fundus has certainly reached maturity, although the technique is merely at the 7th year of its age, for this is the third atlas on this subject to be published this year. This superb book from Japan is lavishly provided with a wealth of illustrations which in their excellence would be hard to beat. The text (in English) is equally good and the whole range of the subject is adequately covered: the normal fundus, albinism, circulatory and vascular disorders, inflammatory conditions, degenerations, and neoplasms. The volume provides a very complete account of the great diagnostic value of this method which has rapidly become an important factor in ophthalmology and, indeed, in general medicine.


The views expressed in this book are based on 560 biopsies of the temporal artery of patients suffering from vascular ophthalmic symptoms. In 32 cases a temporal arteritis was found. The author, who is second in command of the Charité Eye Clinic in East Berlin, had the help of prominent pathologists, an electron microscopist, and the technicians of a well-equipped laboratory. Indeed, the biopsy of the temporal artery is a task best left to a specialist in pathological histology. The obscure illustrations in the book are not a good guide for the excision of the artery. The normal and pathological histology as well as the histochemistry are described clearly and in great detail. Special chapters deal with the changes at different ages. It may be accepted that changes in the temporal artery precede those in the ophthalmic artery. The author has not observed an isolated affection of the ophthalmic artery. This is not the experience of Ross Russell and Earl (1964), who stated that “a patient may go blind as a result of ophthalmic arteritis with minimal evidence of temporal arteritis or with no evidence at all”. Nevertheless, the excision and examination of the temporal artery has great diagnostic, therapeutic, and prognostic value. Thus, a fresh inflammation of the artery allows one to hope for the success of intensive prednisone treatment. The clinical ophthalmological aspects of disease of the ophthalmic artery are also described, though in a more summary way. No reference is made to fluorescein angiography, which should give valuable information about the oculer blood circulation. Though most of the illustrations of the book are quite instructive, the picture of a fundus on p. 77 is misleading; it is meant to show a complete cure by cortisone but appears rather to be the proof of a therapeutic failure.

REFERENCE


This symposium presents an up-to-date view of refractive errors from the aetiological, diagnostic, and possible therapeutic standpoints. Recapitulations of their established work are given by Sorsby and van Alphen. Ludlam gives a critical account of diagnostic methods for measuring
the ocular components. Curtin enthuses about A-scope ultrasonography, but Baum prefers scanning. Young reviews his work suggesting an environmental factor in the development of myopia. The modern, tentative surgical procedures are reviewed, particularly scleral support and refractive keratoplasty. Finally, avenues of promising investigation are suggested by various participants. Even at post-devaluation levels this work is well worth 40 cents.


One of the tragedies of war is the number of young men (and now sometimes women) who are blinded at a relatively early and active stage of their lives with long prospects of living in front of them. The Research Department of the American Foundation for the Blind has made an interesting study of 851 such soldiers blinded in the last three wars (World Wars I and II and Korea) and has shown how they can achieve a place in the community generally comparable to that of the sighted. A comparison of the two classes, indeed, showed that the blinded veterans occupied a similar position to the general population, being heads of their households, owning most of their houses, and living a useful family life. In fact, with their compensation for their disability, the average income for the blinded family was 8,600 dollars in comparison with the national average of 6,600 dollars. The record is a tribute to the authorities concerned with their rehabilitation and care.

NOTES

NATIONAL EYE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

III World Contact Lens Congress, August, 1968

The National Eye Research Foundation will sponsor its Third World Contact Lens Congress at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, on August 11 to 13, 1968.

CONTACT LENS AND CATARACT SURGERY CONGRESSES

Miami, 1969

The IV Biennial Contact Lens Congress is to be held from February 3 to 6, 1969, at the Hotel Fontainebleau, Miami Beach, Florida; this will be followed by a 5-day Cataract Surgery Congress. Five-minute papers are now called for. A credit of up to $100 per registrant towards tuition will be made by the audience for the cost of slides or ciné-film for papers on either subject.

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