Book reviews


The present trend of scientific development will in time make coding of the data obtained inevitable. In ophthalmology the need for a good coding system is becoming increasingly apparent, both for scientific research at national and international levels, and for statistical work in ophthalmological departments. Several attempts have been made in the past to achieve a serviceable coding system, but no system was completely satisfactory. Either the system was too complicated, comprising too many digits, or it did not offer enough scope for detailed codification of ophthalmological data. The latter disadvantage applies to the codification of eye diseases in the “International Classification of Diseases” (I.C.D.) published by the W.H.O., which fails to provide adequate details of eye conditions so that much important information is lost.

A good coding system for eye conditions must be logically set up: on the one hand systematic and on the other following as closely as possible the course by which a diagnosis is reached. In addition it must be easy to use and not take up too many digits.

The “Coding System for Disorders of the Eye”, published by the International Council of Ophthalmology, fulfils these criteria. It is a six-digit system, subdivided into thirteen anatomical and four functional groups, to which a separate group of syndromes has been added. As in an ophthalmological diagnosis the site of the lesion is nearly always known, the type of lesion is usually known, but the cause is often unknown, the subdivisions of the anatomical groups are placed in this order, *i.e.* the first two digits refer to the site of the lesion, the third and fourth to the type of lesion, and the fifth and sixth to the aetiology. The system offers scope for additions and extensions. It can also, if desired, be included in the I.C.D. of the W.H.O. The chapter “Considerations and Basic Principles”, preceding the Tables and Index, gives more information on this and many other points.

If the user studies the Tables before beginning to codify, he will appreciate both the principles of the system and the opportunities which it offers. A detailed alphabetical index of eye disorders with their code numbers, suitable for international use, is intended to make the use of the coding system easier.


Coming from the medical school of Lyons this book is fittingly prefaced by Louis Paufique, and it is worthy of the preface. This first volume is composite in authorship and deals with ophthalmic optics and diseases of the lids and lacrimal apparatus, the conjunctiva and sclera, the orbit, the cornea, lens, and retina. In a second volume, we are promised by the end of 1969 the remainder of our subject. The present book serves as a successor to Paul Bonnet’s “Ophtalmologie Clinique”, now out of print, and has been written by his pupils under the direction of Georges Bonamour. It is a success: very comprehensive, clearly written, abundantly illustrated, and well produced. It is too comprehensive for the general medical student, in Great Britain at least, but should serve as an adequate guide to the junior ophthalmic specialist.

This book, written for the ophthalmic assistant or technician, is designed to provide the basic knowledge which, allied to practical experience, will make him an efficient worker. It will be a helpful book of reference. It explains briefly some aspects of ophthalmology which an ophthalmic technician should know and in more detail the various procedures which form the routine of his daily work.


Iris diagnosis derives from a Hungarian, Preczeley, who published his findings in 1880. Since then much work has been done, and this was summarized in the book of a German health practitioner, Kriege, in 1962. If anyone wishes to diagnose almost any illness in any region of the body by studying the architecture of the sixteen divisions of the iris, he will find here a guide conveniently translated into English by Priest, a medical herbalist.


This text is extremely valuable, both in the high academic standard maintained throughout the three volumes and in the close relationship of theory to workshop and laboratory practice. This text could well become a classic for the optical technician.

For the ophthalmologist who wishes to use a text for reference, an index would be a welcome addition, and it is hoped that one will be supplied in the next edition.

The work is presented as a paperback in three small volumes. This should make it attractive and inexpensive for the student. An alternative one-volume larger format bound edition should be made available for the reference library.


This is a satisfactory book, the first edition of which appeared in 1961. It discusses the whole of ophthalmology—anatomy, embryology, clinical diseases and their treatment, and refractive anomalies—in a topographical manner which is perhaps too detailed by British standards for the undergraduate medical student but excellent for the junior specialist. The writing is clear and the profuse illustrations, both diagrams and photographs of clinical conditions, many of them coloured, are excellent. There is an interesting note on ocular disabilities and the causes of blindness and a short chapter on the history of ophthalmology with a table of the dates of the birth and death of the more illustrious figures. A glossary of ophthalmological terms and pharmacological preparations used therapeutically is appended.


This book gives a comprehensive account of the East German light coagulator. The first section contains the history and general principles of light coagulation, a detailed description of the East German coagulator, and histological evidence of its function.

The second part of the book is concerned with the clinical applications of light coagulation and gives a balanced account of the indications especially in the light of the author's own considerable experience.