
In the preface the author states that this text is a step-by-step description of procedure in contact lens practice for the beginner.

The presentation is entirely in the form of question and answer: a method which leads to dogmatism, in both the choice of question and the mode of answering. The experienced practitioner will find himself in disagreement with many of the answers and the emphasis given to some of the questions. The student has no means of assessing the relative importance or the truth as presented in this form. This is unfortunate since this subject is riddled with the views of entrepreneurs. It is necessary, therefore, that argument be used to teach the value of many of the techniques briefly described in this text. The author rarely does so and as a text for the beginner this may prove dangerous.

The chapters on corneal anatomy, physiology, and pathology, considered in their entirety, are not sufficient for an ophthalmologist, but may be considered useful for the technician or optometrist since many pathological terms are described in elementary terminology.

The chapter on manufacture of lenses is presented in abbreviated form and will satisfy most clinicians, but if advances in technique are to come from clinicians they should know more about technical limitations.

The modifications to corneal lenses are well described and obviously based upon the Soper techniques. On page 47 the statement that the posterior optic zone is the bearing zone of a lens could be disputed. This is not always true. Many lenses are fitted with peripheral bearing zones.

Nevertheless, the book represents an interesting approach to what most ophthalmologists consider a difficult subject, and, in this particular form, the many questions will provide a basis for argument and discussion. There are several excellent illustrations but very few references.


While most symposia should not be published, the present one is an exception and should be read by all ophthalmologists. The contributions vary from the scholarly to the simply didactic but all are relevant and useful to the clinical ophthalmologist. The contents and contributors are as follows:

(1) Problems in the use of antibiotics in ophthalmology (Leopold)
(2) Developments in general anaesthesia for ophthalmic surgery (Swan)
(3) Hyperosmotic agents (Becker)
(4) Conservatism in glaucoma management (Shaffer)
(5) Systemic drugs and adverse influence on ocular pressure (Grant)
(6) Paediatric aspects of drug therapy (Apt)
(7) Problems in drug penetration (Harris)
(8) Topical corticosteroids: dose-response relationships (Kaufman)
(9) Society and the testing of new ocular drugs (Newell)


This volume containing the papers presented at the 1967 postgraduate teaching course organized by the Rotterdam Eye Hospital covers three topics: angiopathies of the retina and choroid, ophthalmic plastic surgery, and visuo-medical aspects of road traffic safety.

In the first section various aspects of hypertensive and diabetic retinopathy, as well as occlusion of the central retinal vein, are discussed. Fluorescein fundus photography in occlusion of the
central retinal vein (Oosterhuis) emphasizes the importance of defective arterial flow, while treatment of this condition, whether by anticoagulants or streptokinase, is disappointing. François compared the clinical appearances in Stargardt's macular degeneration, vitelliform degeneration, senile macular degeneration, central serous choroiditis, cystic macular degeneration, central choroidal sclerosis, and retinopathy with angioid streaks.

The section on plastic surgery covers the surgical management of ptosis and of lacrimal obstruction, with particular emphasis on surgical minutiae in the management of canalicular and duct obstructions and acrylic lens implants.

The third, and shortest, section deals with various aspects of road safety of particular interest to the ophthalmologist.

This is an interesting series of papers on a wide variety of topics, those in the first section being of particular value, combining the view of both internist and ophthalmologist in subjects of particular interest to both parties.


This is essentially similar to the previous edition, but the author has included an explanation of clinical methods of measuring visual acuity, a paragraph on the treatment of welder's flash, an explanation of the cause of diplopia in unilateral aphakia, and a brief note on modern methods of treatment of retinal detachment. The paragraph on the now rare condition of retrolental fibroplasia has been omitted. It would perhaps have been appropriate to include a section on the oculotoxic manifestations of systemic drugs frequently used in general practice. The improvements effected in this edition reflect the practical approach of the author in writing a book for the general practitioner and the undergraduate student. It remains concise and easily read and undoubtedly deserves to continue to occupy a prominent place in the library of the busy practitioner.


This book is written mainly for medical students, general practitioners, paediatricians, and resident ophthalmologists. The 5th edition follows the format of earlier volumes and its concise text and excellent lay-out should make it a useful and quick reference guide to the various aspects of ophthalmology.

Notes

Consilium Europaeum Strabismi Studio Deditum

London, September, 1969

A Congress will be held at the Institute of Child Health, Guildford Street, London, W.C.1, on September 25 and 26, 1969, under the auspices of the European Council for Strabismic Studies.

Details and forms of application may be obtained from the Congress Secretary, C.E.S.S.D., Orthoptic Department, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, W.C.1. Early application is essential as numbers are strictly limited.