
The title of this new French publication might lead the prospective reader to suppose that it would be little more than a catalogue of the causes of blindness in early childhood; it is, in fact, a comprehensive practical textbook of medical paediatric ophthalmology.

Following short introductory sections on genetics and the normal development of vision from early premature birth to the second year of life, there is an excellent chapter describing methods of clinical examination and special diagnostic procedures with an emphasis on the use of electrophysiological methods of investigation, especially in the elucidation of the cause of visual defects in the absence of gross ocular pathology. There are then sections devoted to the description of all those conditions, both hereditary and acquired, which may cause congenital or infantile blindness, and these are accompanied by a bibliography which is both up-to-date and comprehensive. Interspersed among accounts of disorders which have been well documented by other authors, are detailed descriptions of personal cases which do not easily fit into previously recorded categories. There are also several comprehensive tables analysing many series of cases which have been personally observed over years of practice. The very individual style of this book marks it as the work of widely-read authors with great practical personal experience and understanding of this subject.

In addition to surgical skills, the practice of paediatric ophthalmology requires some understanding of genetics, a wide knowledge of hereditary and congenital ocular disorders, a familiarity with all the objective methods of clinical examination which are applicable to the small child, and an understanding of the additional information which may be acquired from electro-physiological methods of investigation. This book is an excellent practical guide to all these aspects of the specialty and one must hope that it will not be too long before it can be read in the English language.


This second volume of Donaldson’s Atlas of External Diseases of the Eye maintains the high quality set by the first. The succinct descriptions of each condition are very good, overshadowed only by the excellence of the coloured stereoscopic slides or black and white photographs.

As with the first, this volume can be highly recommended for the student ophthalmologist, few of whom will be able to afford it.


Because of the increasing importance of genetics in modern medicine, and of the large number of genetically-determined disorders with ophthalmic manifestations, it was appropriate that in 1967 the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology should devote its symposium to the management of congenital anomalies of the eye. It was also appropriate to dedicate these Transactions to Prof. A. Franceschetti, one of the contributors to the symposium and one who had made outstanding contributions to medical genetics.

It was inevitable, in the present state of our knowledge of human genetics, that most of the eighteen papers presented at the symposium were concerned more with description and classification than with the management of congenital anomalies. It is a pity that some of the contributors did little more than present material available elsewhere. In spite of these criticisms this symposium is worth reading, particularly those sections concerned with the detection of the carrier state in autosomal...
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This is an excellent book on a subject which is at present receiving a great deal of attention. It was written by a physician, an ophthalmologist, and a biochemist. The conflicts and literature which concern the natural history and prognosis of a diabetic retinopathy are reviewed in a masterly fashion, and some original epidemiological studies are included. The clinical features of diabetic retinopathy are competently described, and an up-to-date account of pathology is given, although the pathogenesis of soft exudates is not clearly described.

The biochemistry of the retina and the lens is described in detail. Knowledge on this important subject is not great, and some of the material is not strictly relevant to the subject of the book. Nevertheless, here as elsewhere, the command of the literature is impressive and the original contributions of the authors are highly relevant.

The treatment of diabetic retinopathy is critically reviewed and the need for controlled clinical trials is emphasized, as the majority of claims of success for methods of treatment are not founded upon scientific assessment.

The subject is treated under the following headings:

1. Epidemiology of diabetic blindness
2. The ophthalmologist and the diagnosis of diabetes
3. Clinical features of diabetic retinopathy
4. Pathology of diabetic retinopathy
5. Biochemistry of the retina and its blood vessels
6. Natural history of diabetic retinopathy
7. Pathogenesis of diabetic retinopathy
8. Treatment of diabetic retinopathy
9. Transient visual symptoms in diabetes
10. Clinical aspects of cataract in diabetes
11. Metabolism of the lens in relation to lens opacities in diabetes
12. Disorders of the iris in diabetes
13. Diabetes and the intraocular pressure
14. Miscellaneous ocular disorders in diabetes
15. Rehabilitation of the diabetic blind

This book is essential reading for all physicians and ophthalmologists associated with diabetes. The authors are to be congratulated on producing such a timely balanced and scholarly work, which has the additional virtues of readability and brevity.

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European Ophthalmic Pathology Society

VIII Annual Meeting, May, 1969

The European Ophthalmic Pathology Society held its eighth annual meeting in Karlsruhe, W. Germany, from May 1 to 3, 1969. Prof. A. E. Maumenee (Baltimore, U.S.A.) was the honoured guest. Prof. R. Seitz, assisted by Mrs. Seitz, organized the scientific and social programme, which began with a reception at the Park Hotel. The scientific sessions were held in the fine buildings of the Karlsruher Lebensversicherung by courtesy of Dr. Alex Möller who gave an opening address. The annual dinner was held at the Hotel Erbprinz, Ettlingen, and the meeting concluded with a visit to the Burg Windeck.

The meeting was attended by 22 members:

Dr. W. A. Manschot, President (Holland)  Prof. N. Ashton (Gt Britain)
Prof. K. Arnesen (Norway)  Dr. R. Barry (Gt Britain)