Book reviews


The late Benjamin Rycroft arranged this gathering of the world’s experts in the fields of corneal and plastic surgery, and the papers there presented and the discussions that followed are contained in this beautifully produced volume. The standard of production of the book is first class throughout and the articles are profusely illustrated with pictures of great clarity. Such a volume is not intended to be comprehensive but the papers are so varied in their context that every aspect of the subject is included.

Ptosis and lid reconstruction are treated at length. Modern approaches to lacrimal and orbital surgery are also well covered. Every aspect of keratoplasty from the biological and immunological to the details of many specific surgical procedures are discussed. There are sections, too, relating to ophthalmic pathology and bacteriology, the applications of contact lenses, and the surgery of the iris and ciliary body. Opinions and experiences of experts in their fields from over 42 countries will be found.

Although the book deals with a specialized aspect of ophthalmic surgery, much will be found of interest and of real value to every ophthalmic practitioner.


The first edition of these recommendations, intended by the author as a short reference book for the budding ophthalmologist during and after his years of training, has found so many enthusiasts, presumably among his not so very young colleagues, that a second edition has become necessary. While it is intended not to overstep the self-imposed limits of a short guide to everyday ophthalmic therapy, certain newer methods which have recently been developed and have gained a firm foothold in the specialty have been included at the expense of some older, now rarely-adopted procedures. This applies in the first place to the use of corticosteroids in uveal diseases, for which a neat scheme has been elaborated for use in cooperation with the medical specialist. Other interesting schemes concern the use of anticoagulants and of fibrinolytics in retinal arterial and venous thromboses with, no doubt, the intention of combating the attitude of therapeutic nihilism mostly adopted towards these diseases. However, we are not told how effective all this is. A detailed description of the drugs used in ophthalmology is appended; this is a very useful reference list, provided the specifics current in Germany can be translated into their equivalents accessible to the reader.


The main value of specialized symposia lies in the meeting of a large number of people interested in the same basic subject, and the success of this present Conference was reflected in the detailed discussions which followed the formal communications. These papers are here published under four main headings: (1) Anatomy and Physiology of the Ocular Circulation; (2) Techniques of Investigation; (3) Systemic Vascular Disease; (4) Vascular Retinopathies.