
Seeing depends upon lighting, and without light no sight is possible. Perhaps the expert on vision has paid inadequate attention to lighting, and the lighting engineer has insufficiently studied vision. Whether this is so or not, it is clear that these two aspects have been developed independently. The purpose of this book is to further the attempts to provide a common basis for discussion of both vision and lighting. The author is a well-known writer on architectural lighting and daylighting and holds the chair of Environmental Design and Engineering at University College, London. This book is based on a course of lectures given to senior students of the human environment for the Diploma of Public Health, and for the Factory Inspectorate, but is stated to have been written with a wider readership in mind.

The first four chapters deal with the eye and vision, including binocular vision, colour vision, and the psychology of vision. This provides an interesting, lively, and not too academic approach for...
the novice. Then follows a bridging chapter on "Lighting and Vision" dealing with visual acuity, visual performance, and recommended levels of illumination. There are then five chapters giving a clear and concise outline of various aspects of lighting, including basic principles, natural and artificial lighting, glare, and arguments for and against fluorescent lighting as a substitute for natural light. The last chapter is concerned with statutory regulations regarding lighting in public buildings, factories, offices, and shops.

This book is welcome, since new works dealing with lighting appear only infrequently in Great Britain. It provides a very good basic introduction to vision and lighting and it is excellently conceived for the group for whom it was written. It could also be useful as an introductory treatise on lighting for students of ophthalmic optics, and on both vision and lighting for electrical engineers. It is, however, probably too elementary on both subjects for students of architecture, and the price is rather too high to recommend to them if such students would also need a more advanced text.

There are a few errors and inconsistencies which could be cleared up in a future edition. In spite of a general reluctance, the reviewer feels that all new books should be written only in metric units. It is confusing to have both English and metric units, and even the author gets tied up on page 27 when he states that 32 lux is approximately the illumination in a living room. Perhaps more seriously, although it is emphasised that seeing fundamentally involves the brain, the word "sensation" is often used when "perception" is implied. Less serious, but irritating, is to have "ophthalmologist" sometimes mis-spelt, and to have the photopic luminous efficiency of radiation curve misdrawn (Figure 6.1). Some of the diagrams too, have distracting arrows on them, and some, viewed in good lighting conditions, will be seen to be covered with a rash of little whiskers. It is not clear whether this is a subtle secret device for illustrating some hidden principle to students, or whether someone has just forgotten to rub out the construction lines.


The treatment of the eye severely damaged by this type of injury is given in detail in this short monograph both in a long series of clinical cases, including recent and old leucomata, and in experimental work on rabbits. Lamellar keratoplasty is applicable to many of these unfortunate cases and the results are often excellent.


It would be hard to overestimate the benefits to students, research workers, and industrial workers in colour, of the successive editions of Professor Wright's "Measurement of Colour" since its first appearance in 1944. Within one modest volume Wright gives a lucid exposition, from the beginning, of the basic principles of colorimetry, of the experimental techniques involved, and of the varied applications of colour measurement. To those—certainly including many ophthalmologists—who find the evaluation of colour by a mixture of mathematics and sensory concepts slightly mysterious, this book is particularly helpful, even for readers not specially interested in the minutiae of colour measurement. Trichromatic principles of course bulk largely but, well-established though they are, some changes of emphasis have occurred and these are reflected in two substantially new chapters of the present edition devoted respectively to "Metamerism" (the varying spectral compositions of stimuli in colour match) and "Colour Difference Metrology" (the coordination of least perceptible colour differences in different parts of the colour solid). Emendations and minor additions bring the text up-to-date throughout. This book is thoroughly recommended.