
This book contains the proceedings of the Second Symposium of the Ophthalmic Microsurgery Study Group held in June, 1968, at Burgenstock, Switzerland. The title does not quite indicate the contents since, in addition to detailed discussions on microsurgery in glaucoma, there is also excellent material concerning many other aspects of microsurgery. There is a section on the “hardware” and “software” of microscopy, in which surgical instruments, the microscopes themselves, and suture materials are fully discussed.

Furthermore there is much valuable material on microsurgery in cataract, trauma, and keratoplasty, including a most detailed and valuable section on the niceties of graft suturing. A chapter dealing with the anatomical and pathophysiological aspects of glaucoma includes a typically brilliant contribution by Goldmann.

Two short sections on neurology and ocular circulation, although of merit, stand out as curiously irrelevant in this particular book.

The most important chapter from the point of view of advances in ophthalmology is the third, in which several authors describe their experiences with new methods of glaucoma surgery, trabeculotomy, sinusotomy, etc. Krasnov, who presented a vast number of cases but who seems to take a curiously oversimplified view of the aetiology of glaucoma, described his methods in detail. His ingenuous statement “the differential diagnosis between ‘intra-scleral’ and ‘trabecular’ glaucoma is finally settled during the operation itself at the moment of reaching Schlemm’s canal” (by seeing how much fluid is leaking through the trabecular meshwork) had to stand up to some pretty close questioning from the other members of the symposium.

Harms and Dannheim combined the removal of a small oblong of scleral wall with an extensive trabeculotomy to either side of it. They stressed the low complication rate.

Linner found early closure of simple trabeculotomy unsatisfactory (other evidence for this is also presented) and now does a modified Cairns procedure.

Cairns gave a commendably clear description of his operation with beautiful diagrams and again stressed the low complication rate.

Other chapters include a valuable appraisal of the worth of the microscope in ordinary glaucoma procedures; the chapter containing a discussion of glaucoma surgery makes fascinating reading.

This book can be highly recommended to all ophthalmologists and is essential reading for anyone interested in the subject of glaucoma. The editors may be congratulated on a polished production.


This valuable publication comprises the edited version of the proceedings of a symposium on paediatric ophthalmology which was held in Birmingham in April, 1968, under the joint auspices of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and of the Spastics Society. In view of this sponsorship it was natural that there should be an emphasis on the significance of visual handicaps associated with other physical or mental disorders, and on the medical and social aspects of the management and education of children with multiple handicaps. There are excellent short sections on the physiological and psychological aspects of the development of visual perception and on the assessment of vision in very young or handicapped children. It is demonstrated that refractive errors are much more common in the presence of a mental handicap in childhood and the importance of correcting visual defects in deaf children is emphasized; these and other associations of visual disorders in childhood are the basis of the important concept of the “at risk” pre-school-age population in terms of visual screening procedures.

Short sections concerned with important ocular disorders presenting at birth or in early childhood are aimed particularly at paediatricians, child welfare officers, teachers, and other lay personnel who