
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 that “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
are intimately concerned with the upbringing and education of visually handicapped children. The fact that both the audience and the participants at this Symposium were from widely differing disciplines is both the strength and the weakness of this book from the ophthalmologist's point of view. The emphasis on the broader significance of visual handicap in the management of the "whole" child is extremely important for him to appreciate; on the other hand, the purely ophthalmic aspects have had of necessity to be presented in an over-simplified fashion. The greatest value of inter-disciplinary meetings of this type lies in the discussions which follow the formal presentation of papers, and it seems a great pity that the editors have not included at least the important points from such discussions in the book. It is the differing emphasis which the ophthalmologist, the paediatrician, the educational psychologist, the welfare worker, and the teacher put on various aspects of management of the visually handicapped child in the light of their experience which is of the greatest value in demonstrating the absolute necessity of a team approach to the problem, and this is often inferred rather than directly demonstrated in this book. Nevertheless, the publication will prove of great value to those who have concern for all aspects of paediatric ophthalmology.

Notes

Library Association and National Association for the Education of the Partially Sighted

Conference, October 28, 1970

A one-day conference on print for the visually handicapped reader will be held at the Commonwealth Hall, Royal Commonwealth Society, 16 to 20 Craven Street, London, W.C.2., on Wednesday, October 28, 1970. Additional information may be obtained from the Research Officer, The Library Association, 7 Ridgmount Street, London, WC1E 7AE.

Seminar on Clinical Echo-ophthalmography

Vienna, October 12 to 16, 1970

A Seminar on Clinical Echo-ophthalmography will be held at the II Ophthalmology Service (Head: Prof. Dr. J. Boeck), University of Vienna Medical School, Austria, on October 12 to 16, 1970.

For further information and registration, please write to: Dr. Karl Ossoinig, c/o II Ophthalmology Service, University of Vienna Medical School, Alserstrasse 9, A-1090 Vienna, Austria.

Symposium on Retinal Surgery

Moorfields Eye Hospital, November 26 to 28, 1970

The Retinal Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, will hold a symposium for consultants on the Diagnosis, Treatment, and Complications of Retinal Detachment and Allied Conditions at the Moorfields Annexe, Highgate, from Thursday, 26 November, at 7 p.m., to Saturday, 28 November, at 3 p.m. Cases will be shown and the techniques used in this Unit will be demonstrated. Controversial aspects of this subject will be discussed at a Panel Discussion at Kenwood House.

The registration fee of 8 guineas includes dinner on Thursday and Friday. Cars will leave the President Hotel, Russell Square, W.C.1, after breakfast on Friday and Saturday mornings.

Applications to attend should be sent to Mr. Lorimer Fison, 104 Harley Street, W.1, by October 1, 1970. Numbers are limited by the space available at the Highgate Annexe and early application is recommended. This notice will be repeated in the next issue of this Journal.