Book reviews


This book records the author's experience obtained by dealing with over 6,000 visually handicapped patients at a clinic devoted to the problems of these people organized by the New York Association for the Blind. The term “subnormal vision” is discussed at some length, and much of the book is concerned with refraction and the use of visual aids in those with poor vision. The common causes of subnormal vision are briefly discussed and made more interesting by illustrative case histories.

The section on subnormal vision in the child is by far the best part of the book. The importance of an accurate history from the parents and of a complete general examination of the child is stressed, and there is an excellent discussion on the schooling of such children and their integration into the community.

This is not a technical account, and would be best appreciated by the optician who specializes in low vision aids, by the social worker concerned with the welfare of the blind, and by the physician and paediatrician, although most ophthalmologists would also learn a lot from it. The book should certainly be available to all who deal with visually handicapped people.


This booklet contains papers read by six authors at an ophthalmological meeting in May, 1970. The light and electron microscopical examinations of Rohen point to the inner wall of the canal of Schlemm as the main site of the outflow resistance of the aqueous in chronic open-angle glaucoma. Sautter, however, localizes the main outflow resistance in the pre-canalicular trabecular network, a view which is supported by the success of goniotomy and trabeculotomy. Sautter favours a more precise diagnosis than chronic open-angle glaucoma, as this is the collective label of dysgenetic, senile, and other changes in the angle. Aulhorn describes the subtle technique of profile perimetry, which allows the early recognition of small spot-like paracentral scotomata; she admits that this test for early glaucoma requires much time and patience. Draeger discusses the principles of tonometry with special reference to his hand applanation tonometer. Leydhecker deals with the drug treatment of glaucoma, and suggests treating the ischaemia of the optic nerve by Ronicol. It appears doubtful whether a drug which dilates the peripheral blood vessels may not produce an undesirable fall in the ophthalmic blood pressure. Witmer discusses the indications and techniques of operations for glaucoma.

This small book is stimulating and imparts much useful information.


This is the second edition of the popular textbook on corneal lens fitting, which encouraged so many ophthalmologists in the United States to fit contact lenses.

The first edition described a method based upon corneal topography using a modified keratometer. This edition includes a chapter on trial lens fitting, which is possibly the most popular method in Britain. There are additional contributions by a non-medical practitioner.

It must be admitted that technology and the basic sciences are becoming of increasing importance in this specialty. The book has gained by remaining concise and avoiding a discursive approach, and
now has some very well-produced slit-lamp colour photographs to illustrate fittings. It can be recommended to the student as a text that explains the principles of chairside fitting and the various techniques used in Mr. Soper's laboratory for the manufacture and modification of lenses.


This book bears the evidence of having been written by two very experienced oculoplastic surgeons. It is a compendium and makes no claims of being encyclopaedic, but nevertheless describes with the help of clear illustrations so many principles and so many individual techniques used in plastic surgery around the eye that all surgeons will gain from reading it.

The views expressed are often somewhat personal, but when given by such experienced authors they have a claim to authority. It is refreshing to read of the advances made in even the simplest procedures upon the eyelid from the classical techniques described in the textbooks which have resulted from modern microsurgical techniques.


It is difficult to know for whom this work is intended. The preface is addressed to 'all who are responsible for therapy of such conditions'. However, if these include experienced eye surgeons, it was hardly necessary to illustrate such conditions as heterochromia (Fig. 2), hyphaema (Fig. 18), or hypopyon (Fig. 22). Surgeons in training might be misled by the prominence of photographs of a keratoprosthesis in the treatment of bullous keratopathy, and by the mention of the section of the greater superficial petrosal nerve in the treatment of this condition. Surely no eye surgeon needs to be shown a photograph of a man wearing goggles whilst using a hammer and chisel (Fig. 46).

Nevertheless, the book covers a wide field albeit in a highly personal manner, and is clearly the work of a widely experienced and enthusiastic surgeon. It would be of most use perhaps to an eye surgeon working single-handed in a busy industrial city.

**Encyclopédie médico-chirurgicale.** 25th Recueil: Ophtalmologie

The 29th Cahier spécialisé has now been published to bring up to date various aspects of ophthalmology in this interesting (if cumbersome!) encyclopaedia. The following subjects are included:

- Oculomotor nerves—F. Hervouët, C. Lemasson, and H. Chevannes;
- The trigeminal nerve—F. Hervouët, C. Lemasson, and H. Chevannes;
- Physiology of the aqueous humour and ocular tension—P. Demailly;
- Physiology of the ocular vessels—H. Hamard;
- Retinal manifestations of toxicity—C. Haye;
- Retinal conditions related to general disease and infections—C. Haye;
- Simple malformations of the retina—H. Saraux;
- Affections of the endocrine glands and nutritional disease—H. Hamard and L. Moreau;
- Pathology of the ear in ophthalmology—M. Wayoff and P. Labaeye

As always, the contributors are specialists in their fields and these chapters are of considerable interest.