Book reviews


This is an atlas of common disorders of the fundus, illustrated by very good fundus photographs which are accompanied by a short description in the text. This book is suitable for those commencing ophthalmology although its price will preclude many of them from buying it.


This book contains the papers presented at the 1969 Post-graduate Course organized by the Netherlands Ophthalmological Society. The two topics covered are Genetics and Ophthalmology, and Strabismus and Related Problems.

The first section includes several very good review articles on various aspects of ophthalmic genetics, including papers on Rieger’s and Peter’s syndromes by Alkemade, heterozygous manifestations in various types of tapeto-retinal dystrophy by de Haas, homocystinuria by François, and the transmission of Leber’s optic atrophy by van Senus.

The second section deals with various aspects of strabismus and among the eleven papers is one by Gobin on surgical technique, in which he describes his four-muscle surgery, and one by Leuridan and Noordenbos on binocular vision in unilateral aphakia corrected by a contact lens.

This is a well printed and well illustrated book containing a wide range of articles on topics of particular interest at the present time. It can be recommended to ophthalmologists of fellowship standard and above and has the great advantage that it consists of short papers which can be dipped into from time to time.


This booklet deals mainly with the problems of treating severe caustic injuries of the cornea. Less severe injuries require only subconjunctival injections of blood and instillation of a buffer lotion or ethylenediaminetetra-acetic-acid drops. Most of the procedures recommended by the author are generally accepted; as for example, the damping down of the immune reaction between host and donor tissue, preparatory lamellar keratoplasty in extensive corneal destruction, surgical treatment of an existing symblepharon before corneal grafting, and the transposition of Stensen’s duct when the afferent tear ways are obliterated. The author considers oral mucous membrane plastic surgery by the method of Denig to be contraindicated. Experiments in rabbits have shown that there is no caustic deposit under the conjunctiva, and the removal of precious conjunctiva is damaging. In cases of fresh caustic injuries of the cornea, grafting is urgent before oedema and subsequent vascularization make their appearance. The author does not discuss the use of a hypertonic agent, e.g. the well tolerated 5 per cent. NaCl-lanolin-petrolate ointment, for preventing the threat of oedema. If the invasion of vessels into the cornea has begun it is better to wait for 6 or 7 months before grafting. It is astonishing how often the author has been able to improve apparently hopeless cases. Even in total symblepharon, the conjunctival sac could be replaced by the technique of Puchkovskaya or the extracorneal keratoplasty of Castelli. This is a small book but conveys much valuable information.