Book reviews


An account of glaucoma for the lay public. The book consists of an historical section, an account of ocular anatomy and physiology as they affect glaucoma, accounts of the incidence and pathology of the disease, and a description of congenital glaucoma. There follows a section on the signs and symptoms and diagnosis and finally a description of treatment. In a postscript the patient is encouraged that if he follows his prescribed treatment faithfully he is very unlikely to go blind.

It is difficult for a medical reviewer to put himself in the position of the lay public; the problem is one of altering one's own level of comprehension to fit that of a person with no knowledge of medical jargon or of small-scale anatomy and of physiology. On the whole the author has done very well in this, the most important aspect of a book of this type.


The publication in stiff-backed book form of a small collection of papers read at international meetings is now considered an accepted necessity, but to extend this to small seminars (including panel discussions) is a development which causes this reviewer some alarm. This trend is occurring at a time when the number of seminars and the cost of producing books are increasing rapidly. Publishers must routinely print original matter, subjects that require up-dating or re-appraisal, basic texts that provide a guide for the undergraduate or post-graduate student, but since contact lens practice is undergoing such rapid changes one wonders whether a book in this form is necessary.

The present volume contains eleven papers all documented elsewhere, but with some additional material added mostly in the form of editorial notes. It is 2 years since the seminar was held. The value of this text must, therefore, be limited. There is, however, fun in this book for those who know the personalities of the panel participators. The reviewer was delighted by the innuendoes and laughs up the sleeve that can be read into the questions and answers. Some are directed with the consummate skill of a harpoonist. To the student of contact lens practice this slim volume will provide light reading if he is unfamiliar with the high standard of contact lens practice among specialist ophthalmologists in the U.S.A. One commends W. G. Sampson for his depth of understanding of the optics applied to contact lens design and fitting.


This book is based upon Aust’s “Pleoptics and Orthoptics” originally published in German, and gives a full and detailed account of the author’s methods and investigations and treatment of squint. Following a classification of the types of squint and notes on diplopia, the author presents a comprehensive account of the sequence of investigations and explains how to perform the tests that will lead to a diagnosis. Sections on the use of the Visuscope to characterise fixation, and ways of assessing retinal correspondence, are particularly full; 21 pages are devoted to investigations with the synoptophore before coming to the treatment section which comprises occlusion therapy and pleoptic training by the methods of Cüppers (17 pages) and Bangerter (4 pages). The final section deals with orthoptic exercises.