Book review


Donald Gass is certainly one of the very few creative ophthalmologists who are to be found occasionally in every generation. This book brings together in one volume most of the modern ideas on macular disease, many of which originated in his own fertile mind.

He has interpreted fluorescein angiographs and ophthalmological appearances and added his own considerable knowledge of pathology to produce a very logical story of the development of many of the macular diseases which have previously been lumped together as senile macular degeneration, hereditary macular disease, or central serous retinopathy.

The book is divided according to the following twelve chapter headings:

1. Normal macula
2. Choroidal diseases causing localized (disciform) detachment of the retina and pigment epithelium
3. Visual loss caused by wrinkling or folding of the choroid
4. Nonexudative heredodegenerative diseases of the choroid
5. Macular dysfunction secondary to diseases of the pigment epithelium
6. Macular dysfunction caused by retinal vascular diseases
7. Retinal inflammatory diseases affecting the macula
8. Macular dysfunction secondary to traumatic retinopathy
9. Macular dysfunction secondary to neoplastic diseases of the retina
10. Macular dysfunction secondary to non-exudative retinal degenerative diseases
11. Macular dysfunction caused by vitreous abnormalities
12. Serous detachment of the macula secondary to congenital pit of the optic nerve head

The volume is profusely illustrated by fluorescein angiograms with a few pathological photographs, and at the back of the book there is a series of stereoscopic reels with a stereoviewer, which may be used when reading the text. Treatment where suitable is indicated in the text. This book is certainly compulsory reading for all ophthalmologists, not merely for those interested in the retina, but for any one coping with visual problems. The price, unfortunately, is inflationary, but the style in which the book is written makes it a joy to read.

Notes

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Consultants' Course, November 24 to 26, 1971

The Consultants' course in 1971 has been extended to occupy 3 days. The first morning is intended as a basic refresher course in the management of retinal detachments. Subsequent sessions will be devoted to more detailed consideration of retinal work, including malignancy, diabetes, macular disease, genetic aspects, and vascular retinopathy. A review of the detachment procedures of this Unit will be given under the headings of Primary Detachments, Prophylaxis, Re-operations, and von Hippel-Landau disease. A demonstration of an Argon Laser is being planned.