Book reviews


The title of this symposium is somewhat too narrow, as the many prominent speakers ranged over almost the whole field of the diagnosis and treatment of the “imminent” retinal detachment. The contributions included hereditary changes and retinal detachment, histology of degenerative and sclerotic areas of the retina leading to detachment, indications for active prophylaxis of detachment, indications for prophylaxis of idiopathic retinal detachment, direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy, biomicroscopy of the posterior segment with the 3-mirror contact glass, the same with scleral indentation, fluorescence angiography, prophylaxis by diathermy, light-coagulation, photocoagulation with the mirror contact glass, photocoagulation with lasers, cryopexy, risks of prophylactic therapy, and histological examination of scars after the methods described. The book is lavishly supplied with illustrations and the discussions following each of the lectures make it still more interesting for the critical reader.


One of the worst ways of teaching a clinical subject is by a picture book, but as there is only one better way a colour atlas is a deservedly popular approach. This contribution to the literature is an elementary review of methods of examination and common clinical conditions. The text accompanying the illustrations is pragmatic in the extreme, which is no bad thing. The illustrations are good and the reviewer was able to identify most of the conditions before referring to the text. This reflects on the great failing of the “atlas” approach to clinical teaching, in that the best example of any condition may not necessarily be the most typical example.

It would be easy to object to the relative importance given to certain conditions and no doubt the author will be made aware of this. A little more emphasis on squint and a mere mention of refraction would be useful. It is a book that the reviewer will commend to his undergraduate students.


This is a revised, translated edition of Le Grand’s textbook, “L’espace visuel” which was published in 1956.


This is the second edition of the excellent French textbook on surgical technique, which covers the topics of cataracts, glaucoma, iridocyclitis, and trauma. Each section starts with the indications for surgery and this is followed by details of surgical technique and surgical complications and their management. This second edition has been completely brought up to date and can be thoroughly recommended to all French-reading ophthalmologists.