Book reviews


The introduction explains the need for an illustrated atlas with a visual and brief descriptive text of both rare and common fundus disorders. The book is not designed to replace the standard textbooks, but rather to supplement them with visual material.

The book is divided into eight chapters according to the area of the disease and to the type of lesion present. Each opens with a brief description of the topics under consideration; this is followed by a series of illustrations, and then by a table indicating the name of the condition, its photographic reference, the epidemiology, the ocular features, associated general features, and finally the suggested diagnostic investigations.

In a book of this fundamental nature it is inevitable that there are some illustrations which are controversial as far as the diagnosis is concerned. Furthermore, few fundus conditions produce a stereotyped lesion and the illustrations may lead to some confusion in diagnosis.

It is unfortunate that the Table at the end of each chapter cannot be more closely integrated with the illustrations.

This book can be recommended for the student of ophthalmology as an aid to the diagnosis of posterior segment disorders.


Jaeger’s original paintings, on which his Atlas of 1869 was based, were bought by an American ophthalmologist, Dr. W. F. Norris, and bequeathed to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. They have been carefully preserved and the present volume is a new printing with revised text of these original paintings.

Modern methods of colour reproduction reveal the astonishing skill and accuracy of the drawings. Many hours were spent using a primitive ophthalmoscope by direct and indirect methods to record a single fundus. Although of considerable historic interest the pictures are in no sense an archaic relic of the past, but are a comprehensive set of illustrations of fundus conditions which have a practical value today.

Each section is prefaced by a brief description with historical notes. The captions to each figure are based on Jaeger’s text. The colour reproductions are excellent with a good colour balance and sharp details resulting from accurate registration.

This is a useful and decorative volume deserving a place in medical libraries, although its cost may deter individual purchasers.


This volume contains the Proceedings of the 3rd International Congress of Neuro-genetics and Neuro-ophthalmology held in Brussels in 1970.

The major part of the book is concerned with papers on the aminoacidopathies, and although these are primarily of interest to non-ophthalmologists, homocystinuria is mentioned in several of them. François contributed a paper on Ocular Manifestations in Aminoacidopathies, in which he