
Lawton Smith’s industrious researches and his enthusiasm for hunting the spirochaete are well known on both sides of the Atlantic. In this book he has brought together much previously published work, added more experimental data, and combined this with a review of the status of late seronegative syphilis and its treatment. The laboratory aspects of the disease are discussed in detail, especially with regard to fluorescent antibody staining techniques. The importance of routine fluorescent treponemal antibody testing, repeated if necessary, is stressed and the problems of the “biological false positive” reaction is well dealt with. Detailed accounts are given, with beautifully reproduced illustrations, of the author’s work on experimental syphilis in both primates and rabbits. A large section is devoted to the isolation of Treponema pallidum from the aqueous and cerebrospinal fluid in the human subject, and, as the cumbersome title of the book suggests, it makes little difference whether treatment has been given or not. In fact, the treatment of the disease is another difficult problem, and in a short and depressing chapter we learn that all previous treatment régimes can now no longer be considered adequate.

This book is written as a personal account, and there is much here to argue about, but it contains much useful information and, provided that it is regarded from a critical viewpoint, everyone who deals with syphilis to-day can learn from it. Like all books from Thomas, it is excellently produced.


This small book has been written by the director of the University Eye Clinic, Halle, and his first assistant to instruct the student and the general practitioner in the methods of diagnostic ophthalmic examinations. Some subjects have been treated adequately, others not. Some statements are controversial or incorrect. The authors claim that the blind spot scotoma shows an important increase in chronic glaucoma, but Traquair has demonstrated that the blind spot scotoma is separated from the Bjerrum scotoma for a long time by a small band of functioning field. The apex of the angle of the anterior chamber is formed by the ciliary body, not as stated only by the iris and cornea. The student should be taught that the ciliary band forms an important landmark in gonioscopy. Furthermore, the authors mention, erroneously, that ophthalmodynamometry measures the pressure in the retinal and not in the ophthalmic artery.

It is difficult to avoid omissions in an elementary book and to consider the evaluation of all useful tests, but to mention applanation tonometry appears to the reviewer to be more important than to give a detailed description of exophthalmometry and piezometry.


This short textbook is written primarily for nurses. The first two-thirds consists of short accounts of the more common (and in some instances the very rare) disorders of the eye, while the last third consists of nursing procedures.

The first part is written in a concise and didactic manner and comprises an up-to-date synopsis of ophthalmic conditions. The section on squint, while excellent in itself, is far more detailed than the rest of this section, and could probably be simplified in subsequent editions.

The section on surgical nursing care should be compulsory reading for all ophthalmic surgeons, for only by knowing the practices that occur can the surgeon improve upon them and thus improve the comfort of the patient. This section, as is typical of ophthalmic nursing procedures in general, is rather conservative, and this reviewer would like to see it brought more into line with current practice in subsequent editions.

The authors must be congratulated on producing a short textbook for nurses which fills a much-needed gap.