
This book was written as a textbook of pharmacology and therapeutics for student ophthalmic opticians, and where it confines itself to the scope suggested by its title it is more than adequate.

The ophthalmologist would probably be surprised by the amount of pharmacological knowledge required by the student optician. The chapter on the autonomic innervation of the eye would be sufficient for a medical student sitting the second M.B. examination.

The chapters on the actions, uses, and dangers of drugs used in ophthalmology are complete and useful. An optician is limited in the choice of drugs available to him, but it is not always clear from the text which drugs he may use, because the whole of the medical armamentarium is covered. The statement of the rules of the General Ophthalmological Council in Chapter 3 is timely.

Chapter 5 is headed ‘cycloplegics’, but its content covers details of refraction, orthoptic treatment, and anatomy, which are not appropriate either to the chapter or to the book itself.

A colour plate in Chapter 7 would be better omitted as it does not illustrate what is described and bears little relevance to the text.

The book would benefit if the non-pharmacological matter were removed. It might then be available at a lower price.


The area between the pars plana and the ciliary body has long remained the clinician’s “no-man’s land” despite recent improvements in clinical examination. There is an increasing awareness of the importance of this peripheral region in the genesis of retinal and vitreous diseases and this book presents a comprehensive review of the pathological changes that occur in this area. An initial discussion on the anatomy and histology of the ora and peripheral retina and pars plana is illustrated by the results of a large number of post mortem examinations using light microscopy, and this is followed by a discussion of the pathology of various conditions in this remote region.

This is essentially a book for pathologists as there is not much clinical detail, and it is surprising that the author has restricted himself to light microscopy of this area as histochemical techniques and electron microscopy would greatly expand our interpretation of the pathophysiological processes at work there.


With the increasing complexity of modern medicine, the clinical ophthalmologist has difficulty in keeping abreast of recent advances in other branches of medicine. In this small volume the author describes in a succinct manner the ocular and systemic manifestations of genetically-determined metabolic disorders. These conditions are presented according to the ocular structure primarily involved, thus making this book particularly useful.


This is a most helpful introduction to sight testing for the ophthalmologist. It contains many useful hints and practical advice on undertaking a refraction, and can be highly recommended.