
A respectable body of knowledge has accumulated since Dr. T'ang first isolated the trachoma agent less than 15 years ago, but the 49 reports of papers delivered at the third international conference on trachoma show the intense scientific energy and enthusiasm that are still necessarily directed into its research. Large sections of this volume deal with molecular biology, chemistry, metabolism, tissue culture, epidemiology, and clinical aspects, but the majority of reports have an immunological basis. This is perhaps not unexpected in view of the revolution that is going on to-day in this field. In contrast, it is interesting that there are few reports concerning the immunization against, or the therapy of trachoma. This may express the need to return to the laboratory to learn more about the organism and the pathogenesis of the disease. The conference did much to demonstrate the large number of problems that deserve resolution, not least of which is the urgent need for an acceptable uniform and universal nomenclature of immunological types. One major advance, underlined by the number of papers devoted to it, is the use of the McCoy cell culture technique which has been shown to be the best available method for isolation, particularly in an area of growing importance, genital tract infections. The reports of this latest conference on trachoma make essential reading for those either embarking on or engaged in research into all aspects of an incapacitating and widespread disease.


These proceedings are a welcome reminder to those fortunate enough to have participated in a highly successful meeting, at which for the first time a large number of those engaged in fluorescein angiography were able to discuss their techniques and results.

The subjects included apparatus and techniques, the circulation of the choroid and tumours of the choroid, the pigment epithelium, animal experiments, diabetic retinopathy, and neuro-ophthalmology. The standard of the presentations is uniformly high and there is a wealth of material which deserves close scrutiny by all interested in the alterations in the ocular circulation which occur in a wide variety of diseases.

The production of the book is excellent and the high quality of the illustrations adds greatly to the value of the contributions.


For anyone who wishes to know the six causes of up-beat nystagmus, the nineteen causes of bloody tears, the eighteen causes of interstitial keratitis, the 46 ocular and systemic anomalies associated with congenital glaucoma, the 98 syndromes associated with congenital cataract, the sixteen associations of angioid streaks, the 38 causes of cortical blindness, and a host of other associations, this is the book for him! The several hundred lists of differential diagnoses contain an enormous amount of useful and interesting material, as well as a certain amount which is useless. The didactic presentation is inevitable and requires of the reader a considerable knowledge of ophthalmology.

No examiner of higher degrees and diplomas should be without this book, and no candidate dare enter an examination without having browsed through it.