In the first section the article by J. Gloster on the “Exploration of the central field” and that by P. A. Graham on “Screening for glaucoma” are of much practical value and clearly written. A. H. Keeney, in an article on the diagnosis of orbital lesions, describes every possible method of examination available but wisely sums up the situation in the last paragraph by stating that “the competent diagnostician will cull the maximum information he can obtain from the patient’s history and physical examination, and will employ the minimum number of instrumental or laboratory procedures”.

Some chapters such as “Prospects in retinal fluorography” by E. S. Rosen and “Prospects in biomicroscopy” by K. Hruby only highlight some of the particular uses of these techniques, and D. Gordon’s article on “Ultrasonography in diagnosis” gives a good hint that this method may have valuable future in the diagnostic field.

Miller, in a useful chapter on “Unusual forms of secondary glaucoma”, wisely states, with regard to the treatment of carotid-cavernous fistula by carotid ligation and its possible complications, that “ophthalmic aspects and their importance should take a higher priority in the planning of therapy for this relatively benign condition and the present clinical pre-occupation with elimination of the bruit and reduction of proptosis relegated to second place”.

The ocular manifestations of chromosomal disorders and some newer genetic entities are dealt with by C. G. Keith and Arnold Sorsby respectively, and M. F. Armaly has contributed a chapter on the “Polygenic determination of open-angle glaucoma”.

D. Nicholson, in an article on the “Complications of systemic glaucoma therapy”, concludes that “The majority of systemically administered drugs which have at some time been thought beneficial in the treatment of glaucoma have proven either ineffective or too toxic”.

Lincoff’s chapter on “Cryosurgical treatment of retinal detachment” is excellent, as is also Binkhorst’s article on “Lens implants”.

This is a nicely produced book and one which can be thoroughly recommended.


This book consists of three reviews: “Ocular Manifestations of Rheumatic Disorders, Natural and Iatrogenic” by P. Henkind and D. H. Gold, “The Oral-Mucosal Manifestations of Rheumatic Diseases” by N. A. Cummings, and “The Skin as a Reflector of Immunological Change” by W. M. Sams and W. S. Logan. The first two essays are of particular interest to ophthalmologists.

Rheumatic disorders frequently have ocular manifestations. They may be the initial presenting sign or symptom of the disease and in some cases are pathognomonic or at least indicate the diagnosis of the underlying systemic disorder. Ocular complications are such a common accompaniment of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis as to form one of the dreaded complications if overlooked or ignored. For this reason such children should be periodically examined. Lastly, ocular pathology and its understanding may help towards the elucidation of the widespread signs and symptoms and the subtleties of the basic cause.

The chapter on oral-mucosal manifestations of rheumatic disease is most informative and must encourage the practising ophthalmologist to shine his inspection torch on the open mouth. The “oral apparatus” is extraordinarily diverse with regard to tissue elements, including supportive, connective, vascular, and epithelial structures, and it is for this reason that it is commonly affected in “collagen-vascular” syndromes.

Oral involvement is sometimes an essential part of the disease complex, as in Sjögren’s and Behçet’s syndromes; a frequent and significant feature, as in systemic lupus erythematosus, Reiter’s syndrome, and scleroderma; or an uncommon complication as in dermatomyositis, chronic ulcerative colitis, psoriasis, and ochronosis. Some drugs commonly used in the treatment of connective tissue disease such as gold salts, immunosuppressives, and antimetabolites, may affect oral structures adversely. This chapter is well illustrated.
The last section on skin complications covers a wider field than is usually encompassed by the ophthalmologist. Nevertheless it discusses a host of syndromes familiar to the eye department and describes not only their dermatological manifestations clearly and concisely but also the pathological and immunological aspects which in many cases are still not fully understood and remain sub judice.

There is an excellent bibliography and a workable index. The reader cannot fail to be impressed with the knowledge, which is being gradually wrested from nature, concerning immunological problems and at the same time to be made aware of the gap which has still to be bridged.


In tropical and subtropical countries disorders of the eye are among the commonest of ailments needing treatment, and the blind in Africa number about 5 million, most of the cases being preventable. Yet in North Nigeria, for instance, there is only one ophthalmologist to every 10 million of the population (in the U.S.A. there are 350). The paramount need is thus not for a limited number of expensively trained ophthalmologists, but for an army of orderlies, students, or nurses, who after a short training in basic medicine and ophthalmology can be quickly deployed into the neglected rural areas.

Dr. Geoffrey Bisley has a distinguished record in this field. After 26 years in Government Service in Kenya, where he directed one of the most efficient ophthalmic centres in Africa, and where he inaugurated an excellent system of mobile eye-units (which has been the envy of many less fortunate communities), he clearly appreciates the problems and needs of such underdeveloped lands.

This is an admirable book, since it is almost unique in covering the special requirements of such a practical, but limited, ophthalmic service. It is well written, with very clear diagrams, and gives a balanced account of basic ophthalmology, with special emphasis on tropical ocular infections, simplified cataract camps, and so on; the final chapter (by Dr. W. R. Burkitt) on rural ophthalmology is excellent. Thanks to assistance from the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, the book is also gratifyingly cheap.


The management of cataract problems is discussed in a concise and helpful way. This is achieved by correlating pathogenesis, pathophysiology, and the clinical picture. The value of recent contributions to surgical technique is also discussed, and the author, drawing upon his large experience, has made a critical selection of important advances, although the technique of phako-emulsification has been omitted.

The layout is excellent but the percentage of histological illustrations seems excessive in a book dealing with surgical problems. The reader can, however, obtain an excellent and authoritative review of current thought on cataract extraction, methods of treatment, and the avoidance of complications. This type of review has not been covered recently by books devoted to the description of operations and it is therefore to be welcomed.


The author defines microstrabismus as a squint of less than 5 degrees with anomalous retinal correspondence—a sensory rather than a motor disturbance.

He deserves credit for stressing the importance of this condition, which had been previously diagnosed as amblyopia without squint. Such an error was understandable as the cosmetic defect...