
This is an important and comprehensive text of some 700 pages, containing eighteen chapters, each written by an authority. The subjects cover basic aspects of the physiology and anatomy of the eye of vertebrates and invertebrates. It will become a standard source book for Institutes of Ophthalmology and the many University departments interested in vision.


This is a useful book especially for the resident or busy general ophthalmic surgeon who needs a compact and up-to-date text on the subject. The matter is presented in an orderly and eminently readable form and the text is liberally illustrated with excellent diagrams, drawings, and photographs. Modern views of the hereditary aspects of glaucoma are fully documented and the section on tonometry and tonography is particularly well presented.

There is instruction on how to diagnose many of the rarer kinds of glaucoma and excellent guidelines for treatment are laid down.


This short textbook is proffered as a link between ophthalmologists and histopathologists, intended to draw back the esoteric veil which reputedly masks ophthalmology.

The subject is divided on an anatomical basis. Each section begins with an account of the related anatomy, histology, and embryology, followed by a relatively comprehensive, although compact, description of histopathology which has been arranged in a somewhat conventional manner with tumours as the final topic. In it this resembles another well known pathological textbook. In an endeavour to be comprehensive, many topics are superficially scanned. The section on the retina does not include any of the information derived from digest studies, and such points as the occurrence of cytoid bodies in malignant hypertension are not mentioned. Although the cytology of intraculcular tumours is well described, the account of their natural history is rather inadequate, and no mention is made of iris neovascularization as a complication. There is, unfortunately, scant reference to the contribution of electron microscopy, and little discussion of pathogenetic mechanisms. There is a useful section on conjunctival smear cytology, and an awareness of ocular fungal infections. An adequate glossary of definitions of ophthalmic terms is appended.

The photomicrographs, although in monotone, are nonetheless as informative as colour plates, and the language is terse and formal in style.

The volume is well presented, but because of its brevity, the reviewer feels that it will be of more value as a revision text than as a source of reference.


This volume describes many of the clinical abnormalities of the eye. Students are asked to answer questions after they have read each portion. This method of teaching assumes that the clinical description is adequate. It is, of course, most useful as a method of revision. Students who know nothing about ophthalmology when they start reading this book might also require some elementary textbook to enable them to understand in more detail the various pathological conditions which may affect the eye.