Book reviews


This excellent book, which covers many aspects of external and internal eye disease in detail, has been produced in a department with a long history devoted to the study of the causation of infective ocular disease. Besides surveying and summarizing in depth much of the more recent literature and opinion, it reiterates at length some earlier research which has as much clinical application today as it did in the past. The book gives detailed accounts of the resident bacterial flora of both the normal eye and the donor eye before and after removal from the cadaver. Methods of taking cultures from the conjunctiva and from corneal ulcers in patients suffering from postoperative infections, are described. The importance, together with the investigation, of aseptic technique in the operating theatre is stressed. The advantages and disadvantages of methods of sterilization, various disinfectants, scrub routines, and methods of air hygiene are discussed at length. Detailed reviews of ocular tuberculosis and leprosy, allergy, toxoplasmosis, toxocara, and syphilis are presented by experts in each of these fields. The incidence and investigation of mycotic eye disease is described together with a detailed description of the clinical signs and investigation of Rickettsial and viral eye disease.

This is a worthwhile volume, particularly for those who wish to obtain a true understanding of the microbiological causes of ocular disease, and the investigations which are essential if proper treatment is to be initiated.


In this, the first of two volumes on hereditary and choroidal diseases, the late Alex Krill discusses the evaluation of this complex group of disorders in a masterly fashion. His untimely and tragic death is a great loss, not only to American ophthalmology, but to ophthalmology throughout the world.

In the first chapter the principles of genetics are presented in a logical and clear manner, starting with molecular genetics and cytogenetics, and continuing with Mendelian inheritance and multifactorial inheritance, including a discussion of the Lyon hypothesis. Sections on pharmacogenetics and chromosomal aberrations are followed by a short discussion of dermatoglyphics.

The second chapter on fluorescein angiography is contributed by Desmond Archer, who presents an excellent exposition, beautifully illustrated, on this most important topic.

Other chapters are on dark adaptation, electrotoretinography, electro-oculography, visually evoked responses, and evaluation of colour vision.

This book can be thoroughly recommended to all ophthalmologists as an excellent introduction to the investigation of retinal disease. It should be mandatory reading for residents at the start of their training and can be read with profit by all ophthalmologists.