Book reviews / Obituary

on fitting hard contact lenses includes the Dyer and Boyd methods. Spun-cast and lathe-cut soft lenses are discussed with the fitting methods of both, and also the use of therapeutic soft lenses. There are chapters on CAB and silicone lenses, scleral lenses, and intraocular lenses. This is a comprehensive book, recommended for anyone interested in fitting contact lenses.

M. S. WILSON


This handbook is intended to supply the reader with a broad overview and a basic understanding of pediatric ophthalmology. The writing of it was stimulated by the editors’ contact with medical students at the stage of grasping the basic problems in ophthalmology. The book succeeds in its intention and will be a useful introduction for medical students and also to others such as orthoptists, opticians, paediatricians, and other readers interested in children with eye disease. There is a useful chapter on principles and examples in ophthalmic genetics, which again will be of interest to those trying to grasp the subject. The references are basic and useful, but the illustrations, mainly drawings, may to some degree detract from the book. However, the book is well balanced and should prove popular.

DAVID TAYLOR


This short book is a revised English-language edition of a text originally published in German in 1977. It outlines the principles behind, and applications of, metered and ‘organ-specific’ drug delivery systems. As a large section describes the application of this principle (used clinically as the Ocusert system) to the eye, the book is of considerable interest to ophthalmologists. The author is professor of ophthalmology in Munich and secretary general of the International Society for the Advancement of Therapeutics. Many of the principles and devices he outlines were developed by the ALZA Corporation, founded by Al Zaffaroni, whose leading role in this field the author acknowledges.

The book may be divided into 3 sections. The first includes definitions, giving explanation of words such as ‘biopharmaceutics’ and ‘liberation’, and differentiating between pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. It describes the principle behind various types of ‘therapeutic systems’ and devices, by which metered-dose continuous delivery of a drug may be delivered either locally or systemically. The second section describes therapeutic systems for systemic use such as the infusion system for intravascular infusion of drugs in solution, the gastrointestinal therapeutic system (a trial of the acetalzamide gastrointestinal therapeutic system being recently reported), and the transdermal therapeutic system. The third section describes therapeutic systems for local use. Ophthalmic therapeutic systems are described in some detail. When describing the (pilocarpine) Ocusert, the author draws on his own experiences. The possible role of ocular therapeutic systems in the treatment of infective and inflammatory disease of the eye is also described.

The book concludes with a glossary of biopharmaceutical terms and a useful bibliography. It is easy to read and makes good use of diagrams to illustrate points made in the text. It should make interesting reading for the general ophthalmologist who wishes to improve his knowledge of the background and principles by which these ‘therapeutic systems’ work.

ROGER HITCHINGS

Obituary

J. A. Corkey, MD, FRCSI, DOMS

Mr J. A. Corkey, formerly senior ophthalmic surgeon at the Eye Clinic, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, died suddenly on 7 March. He was 72.

Joseph Allison Corkey was born in the Manse, Cullybackey, Co. Antrim. Educated at Royal Belfast Academical Institution and Queen’s University, Belfast, he graduated in medicine with first class honours in 1930. He represented his school and university at rugby. After holding house appointments at the Royal Victoria Hospital he was appointed a demonstrator in pathology for a year, during which time his interests turned to ophthalmology. After postgraduate study and training in Vienna and the Western Ophthalmic Hospital, London, he obtained the MD, FRCSI, and DOMS.

Mr Corkey was appointed to the ophthalmic staff of the Benn Ulster Eye and Ear Hospital in 1934 and ophthalmic surgeon to the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1939. He was senior ophthalmic surgeon at the Eye and Ear Clinic, Royal Victoria Hospital, from its opening in 1965 until his retirement in 1972. During this period he was also lecturer in ophthalmology to Queen’s University, Belfast, and was responsible for undergraduate and postgraduate training, making notable contributions to the specialty. A member of many medical societies, he was also an elder of the church, at which his father had formerly been senior minister, and an enthusiastic Rotarian. As a member of many committees his quiet and considered opinion was always welcome. He was honorary secretary for many years of the Board of Governors of ‘Inst’, and a member of convocation of Queen’s University, Belfast. Active in BMA matters, he was formerly chairman of the Belfast Division and chairman of the Northern Ireland Council. In recognition of his services he was elected a fellow of the Association in 1971. He was also chairman of the Medical Staff Committee of Royal Victoria Hospital during 1963–65, and was a past president of the Ulster Medical Society.

In addition to his active involvement in many medical and social activities he retained a life-long interest in his specialty and was the Northern Ireland representative on the Faculty of Ophthalmologists for many years and the Ophthalmic Group Committee of the BMA. He
was also interested in the more recently formed Irish Faculty of Ophthalmology and was an early member. As a council member of the Irish Ophthalmological Society he was a regular attender and contributor at the annual general meetings. There was universal appreciation of his friendly and impressive manner when as president of the IOS in 1976 he led the visiting party to the ophthalmic clinics in America and then on to a joint meeting with the New England Ophthalmological Society in Boston. He enjoyed his usual Saturday morning golf at Belvoir, and was never happier than when he was with his family and involved in their activities.

Allison Corkey will be sadly missed by his family, large circle of friends and many members of the large community that he served so well. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, three daughters, and a son, who is also a doctor.

V.A.F.M.

Notes

Change in style of references

In accordance with the Vancouver agreement many medical journals are to standardise the instructions they issue to authors on the preparation of articles. References will be cited by the numerical system already familiar in many journals, including the British Medical Journal. A paper (or book) cited in the text is referred to there by a superscript number. In the list of references the papers (or books) appear in the numerical order in which they are first cited in the text, not in alphabetical order by authors' names. For convenience in preparing the typescript the reference number may be typed between parentheses on the line, not superscript. The titles of journals will be abbreviated in accordance with the style of Index Medicus. In the typescript they should either be abbreviated in that style or given in full. This journal will change to the numerical system from the first issue of 1980. Authors submitting papers are asked to adopt it now in order to facilitate editing. Three examples follow:


Copies of the Vancouver agreement (50p, post free) are obtainable from the Publishing Manager, British Medical Journal, BMA House, Tavistock Square London WC1H 9JR.

European Glaucoma Society

The First Symposium of the European Glaucoma Society will be held on 18–20 April 1980 in Brighton. It will take place in the William IV room of the Brighton Pavilion and accommodation has been arranged at the Old Ship Hotel nearby. For details, conference registration, and hotel booking documents apply to Mr Redmond Smith, 2 Harley Street, London W1. Documents will be sent out in June and July. The number of delegates is limited to 200, so early booking is essential.

New York Seminar

The Department of Ophthalmology at Park Ridge Hospital, Rochester, New York, will hold the fourth annual Ophthalmic Seminar on 10–11 August 1979. Topics will be Current Concepts in Vitrectomy, Paediatric Ophthalmology, and Diseases of the Anterior Segment. Further information from Ms. Katherine Sgbelloni, RN, Coordinator, Ophthalmic Services, Park Ridge Hospital, 1555 Long Pond Road, Rochester, New York 14626, USA.

Retinal and vitreous disorders

An international symposium on the practical management of retinal and vitreous disorders will be held at Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, Scotland, on 4–8 May 1980. Details from Mrs Allene Gearce, Department of Ophthalmology, Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, Dundee DD2 1UB, Scotland.

Metabolic eye disease

The Fourth Symposium of the International Society on Metabolic Eye Disease will be held in Cairo, Egypt, on 11–13 February 1980 under the auspices of President Muhammad Anwar El-Sadat. The programme will include discussion of nutritional metabolic eye disease, metabolic cataracts, and the role of metabolism in ocular infectious diseases. A second session of the symposium will be held in Jerusalem, Israel, on 18–21 February 1980 to discuss diabetic retinopathy, mucopolysaccharidoses, and metabolic retinal and corneal disorders. For inquiries and submission of free papers contact Programme Chairman, Heskel M. Haddad, MD, 1200 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10029, USA. For travel information contact Garber Travel, 1406 Beacon Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02146, USA.