
This book was written, as the preface states, to update the technical details of a limited number of surgical procedures which the authors frequently use. It achieves this aim. The procedures described are beautifully and very clearly illustrated. The text is kept to a minimum. It is succinct, precise, and easy to follow. Full details are given, including anaesthesia, what sutures to use, how to insert them, and what dressings are favoured.

Very little attempt is made to describe the indications for alternative procedures. If the reader does not have a knowledge of ophthalmic plastic surgery he will find it difficult to assess which procedure to choose for any particular patient. For instance, the chapter on ectropion describes only the Byron Smith modification of the Kuhnt-Zymanowski procedure and the Lazy-T operation. Mention is made that an ectropion may be cicatricial or non-cicatricial, but no further specific details are given. In the chapter on lid repair there is no discussion of the difference between a lid margin defect and a more extensive defect. The ptosis chapter does not relate the type of surgery very clearly to the levator function. It would be a pity if the reader thought that a free tarsal graft or a tarsal transfer was the only way of lengthening the lower lid retractors or that a dermis-fat graft was the only suitable orbital implant. Nor is mention made of how to manage complications which might arise, although there is some discussion of how to avoid them.

The book tries to cover the whole field of ophthalmic plastic surgery and includes operations on the eyelids, conjunctiva, lacrimal apparatus, orbital tumours, sockets, and the repair of orbital fractures. With such a wide field it is inevitable that some of the sections are superficial, and it is a pity that no references or indications for further reading are given. Provided the reader understands these limitations he will find many excellent procedures very well described and illustrated in this book. Byron Smith has initiated and modified a large number of ophthalmic plastic operations, and it is valuable to have them collected in one book with details of how he recommends that they should be performed.

J. R. O. COLLIN


Many of the recent advances in the neurophysiology of the visual system are included in this excellent study of the retina and its central connections. The sensory and motor components of visual function are discussed from their physiological aspects with reference to human and animal studies. Pathological conditions are mentioned only briefly, for this is basically a book for the neurophysiologist rather than the clinical ophthalmologist. The numerous diagrams are instructive and the bibliography is comprehensive and contemporary.

T. J. FFYTCH


This short manual on retinal and choroidal dystrophies is clearly written, well organised, and despite its modest size contains a remarkable amount of up-to-date information. An introductory chapter discusses terminology, including definitions of macular anatomy, and provides a rationale for classifying the retinal and choroidal dystrophies in a topographical manner. A further chapter is devoted to the basic diagnostic tests of retinal function including colour vision, dark adaptation, electro-retinography, electro-oculography, visually evoked responses, and contrast sensitivity.

The remainder of the book is devoted to the various retinal and choroidal dystrophies described in anatomical sequence. The chapters include the vitreoretinal and ganglion cell dystrophies, the rod and rod-cone and cone and cone-rod dystrophies, and retinal pigment epithelial dystrophies. The 2 final chapters relate to disorders of Bruch's membrane and the choroidal dystrophies. The