have emphasised the greater susceptibility of the fellow eye to ACG in hospital and immediately after discharge.

On the subject of medication, it is notable that no fellow eyes developed acute ACG when mydriatics were withheld from the operated eye. Although numbers are small (16 out of 187 eyes in hospital and 14 out of 52 eyes at initial follow-up), I think they are sufficiently large to warrant further study. As regards pilocarpine treatment, this possibly has a protective effect preoperatively (Table 3: \( \chi^2 = 3.17 \), \( p > 0.05 \) but less than 0.1) and certainly has a protective effect postoperatively (Table 4: \( \chi^2 = 16.7 \), \( p < 0.001 \)) (Yates's correction applied for both calculations) consistent with Bain's observations in 1957. Although my data suggest that carbonic anhydrase inhibitors may have a protective effect, I concede that this cannot be established with certainty from my study.

I would like to emphasise that no medical regimen entirely prevented acute ACG in the fellow eye. In this observation I am supported by Bain,\(^3\) Lowe,\(^4\) and Mapstone.\(^5\) In Mapstone's study of 202 fellow eyes\(^6\) 9 developed acute ACG spontaneously in spite of having a negative pilocarpine phenylephrine provocative test. In answering Mr Mapstone's letter I therefore still maintain that my large retrospective study does provide additional useful information on the behaviour of the fellow eye.

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R. S. EDWARDS

References


It is of course perfectly sensible that there should be a movement towards specialisation in the optometry of children and that there should be a book on paediatric optometry to help those who are less familiar with the needs of children. Professor Rosner's book is logically laid out, being divided into 2 basic parts: examination and diagnosis, and the postexamination process. The description of history taking and defining the child's problem is rather overburdened with detail, and while the author warns the reader not to overstep his professional skills he then goes into detail about the relevance of genetic, prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal factors, augmenting the text with turgid lists of names of conditions which may affect children, some so rare as to be unfamiliar to most paediatric ophthalmologists. The section on examination of the vision is relevant, and there are good descriptions on the examination of binocular vision and refraction.

The chapter on examination of the eye and adnexae is a perfect demonstration of the need for closer co-operation between ophthalmologists and optometrists and an end of the dreary cold war between the 2 professions. In this chapter the author lists a series of conditions that could affect the eye of the child. There are no illustrations, and asking the reader to stay awake while reading lists of names such as euryblepharon, posterior lenticonus, Argyll


In the field of uveitis most ophthalmologists still despair of ever seeing any sort of order in the confusion of clinical syndromes ranged under this heading. Despite there being no dramatic new advances in either diagnosis or treatment a general text presenting a thorough review of current concepts would be welcome. I received this book hoping it might fill this purpose, but unfortunately it does not. It is a slender volume of 116 pages, more than one-third of which bear colour illustrations. The type is clear and there are very few errors in the text. Although the style is easy to read, the text is frequently interrupted by tables which could be more smoothly related to the text. One often has to turn forward several pages to take up the text line, and there are many irritating half empty pages. There is a useful chapter of basic immunological concepts and a brief discussion of most types of uveitis and their treatment. The imbalances in the book presumably reflect the particular interests of the distinguished authors.

It is not, however, to be judged as a comprehensive text but in the light of its illustrations, since these justify its title and undoubtedly account for its high cost. Many are excellent, especially in those cases where pathological sections are related to the clinical photographs. On the other hand there are many which fail to make their point clearly, if at all, and one or two which seem to be unrelated to their captions. Many of the illustrations seem superfluous, and one wonders what criteria were used in selection.

W. J. DINNING

Book reviews


The 88th volume in the series 'Bucherei des Augenarztes' consists of a collection of articles on the limbus. These include a description of the anatomy and physiology and discussions on inflammations, injuries, degenerations, and tumours of this region. The contributions derive from a symposium held in Frankfurt in 1977, and the authors have been requested to bring the text up to date and to expand the illustrations. The result is an interesting, well-illustrated portrayal of a specific area of the eye in health and disease which makes a welcome change from the more conventional textbook approach. The high standards of this on-going series are maintained, and the book may be recommended for ophthalmologists of all levels.

T. J. PPITCHE