

Obituary

E. B. Dunphy, MD

Professor Edwin Blakeslee Dunphy died earlier this year. Born in 1895, he served as an ensign on destroyer convoy duty in the first world war. After graduating as a doctor of medicine from Harvard Medical School in 1922 he performed his residency at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary where he later became professor and chief of ophthalmology. In the second world war he was on active service for four years as a naval medical officer in the rank of captain.

In 1953 he became director of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness and six years later he was the founder of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Blindness. Following his retirement from active practice prevention of blindness was his main interest.

He was the recipient of many honours. He was president of the New England Ophthalmological Society in 1947 and the American Ophthalmological Society in 1960. In 1962 he received the American Medical Association prize in Ophthalmology and in 1963 he was elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine. He was also the recipient of the Howe prize in ophthalmology from the University of Buffalo and from the American Ophthalmological Society.

But what of the man himself? Always an anglophile, an associate of many years described him as 'the most completely selfless and modest man of distinction I know' and another as 'a gentle, warm and humorous man who, because he loved even his least brother so well, was so well loved.' There are many ways to the top of a profession but few tread the path chosen by this learned and charming ambassador of American ophthalmology, whom it was a privilege to know.

He is survived by his wife Virginia, née Delano, two daughters, five grandchildren, and one grandson.

STEPHEN MILLER

Book reviews

Atlas of Strabismus Surgery. By MARSHALL M. PARKS. Pp. 221. £38.00. Harper and Row: London. 1983.

This is a well produced atlas with the illustrator, John E. Parker, having his name deservedly displayed with equal prominence to Marshall Parks' on the inside title page.

Interesting and worthwhile details on the holding and use of surgical instruments are given with particularly apposite comments on the manipulation of the lockable needle holder and correct handling of muscle hooks. The excellent illustrations give complete details necessary for the performance of all standard ocular muscle operations, including the role of the surgical assistant, so that the reader could carry out any of the described procedures with confidence and accuracy. The surgical approaches are those developed so expertly by Marshall Parks over the years, and this means using the conjunctival fornix incision for muscle exposure, which requires expert assistance to realise its potential.

Naturally there are some criticisms, and these include the impossible diagrams of ocular muscle action that show the

eye being moved vertically from a position of 67° of adduction. The mythological ligament of Lockwood reappears to be labelled in a diagram on page 10, yet the important specialised fascial connections between inferior rectus and lower tarsal plate never materialise in the drawings. The limbal conjunctival exposure is modified to allow separate incision of Tenon's fascia, thereby losing its main advantage of permitting conjunctiva and Tenon's fascia to be handled together. Many operators using the posterior fixation suture (Faden) prefer two scleral and two muscle bites on each edge of the muscle to create adhesion over an area rather than the thinner line of attachment created by single bites.

However, this is more than an atlas. Preoperative discussion between surgeon and patient or parents is encouraged, so that the reasons for sometimes working on the 'good' eye are understood, and possible postoperative diplopia is not taboo. Postoperative care is given equally helpful comment, with management appropriate to different age groups being emphasised. This is a thoroughly practical book revealing clearly and concisely a proved method of strabismus surgery that can be positively recommended.

PETER FELLIS

Intraocular Lens Implantation. Edited by E. S. ROSEN, W. M. HAINING, E. J. ARNOTT. Pp. 688. £56.00. C. V. Mosby: St. Louis. 1984.

This book has been directed by the editors as a book of reference towards surgeons already performing intraocular lens surgery and also to those desirous of taking up this work. The text comprises a collection of articles from 73 authors and coauthors, and the subject matter has been arranged in as logical a sequence as possible in order to mitigate the lack of cohesion from which all multiauthor books tend to suffer.

The result is a series of essays on all branches of intraocular lens implantation. Some of them are excellent, being concise and instructive, while many others are dull and even unhelpful, despite the fact that most of the authors are internationally recognised as authorities on the subject on which they have been asked to contribute. For a surgeon anxious to engage in this work, however, I would regard the variety of presentation as confusing, little help being given to the anxious learner as to what sort of cataract surgery he should be performing or what style of implant he would be wisest to choose. It is the reviewer's opinion that surgeons wishing to take up intraocular lens work for which they require instruction would be better advised to seek the advice of a colleague already pursuing that type of surgery or to attend an instruction course, which would give simple guidance and clarify much of the unnecessary confusion. That done, a book of this sort becomes considerably more interesting and rewarding. Most of the authors have already published the ideas contained in their presentations elsewhere, but it is convenient for reference to have the ideas gathered together. The reader, however, needs to exercise his selective faculties. One original element in this book is the inclusion of three contributions from cataract patients, and these were particularly enjoyable.

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