Book review

Uveitis: A Clinical Approach to Diagnosis and Management. By RONALD E. SMITH AND ROBERT M. NOZIK. Pp. 212. £37.25. Williams and Wilkins: London. 1983.

This is a uveitis book for the clinician, and it is refreshing not to have to read a large prelude of basic immunology before the clinical material, as has been a feature of most books on the subject recently.

The 2 authors work at the Estelle Doheny Eye Foundation, Los Angeles, and the Francis I. Proctor Foundation in San Francisco, 2 of the most dynamic institutes in uveitis research in the USA. The contents are divided into 3 broad sections: general principles, special clinical problems, and specific clinical entities. The first section deals with classification, signs, and treatment. It is generally good, with much of interest and practical help such as an excellent chapter on the aims of treatment, but the text, in common with the rest of the book, has a rather concise and simplistic style which can be irritating to the British reader. Chapters on how to refer a patient to a physician and how to write the referral letter reflect the differences between British and American medicine. The second section deals with topics such as corneal disease with uveitis, retinal vasculitis, or hypopyon. Each topic occupies a 'chapter' of about 2 pages, which is hardly adequate for detailed discussion. For instance, scleritis, episcleritis, and uveitis are dealt with in just over one page. Scleromalacia perforans is not mentioned, nor is any advice given on the management of scleritis, a difficult subject in its own right.

The final section has similar chapters of a few pages discussing specific clinical entities such as toxoplasmosis, sarcoid, or pars planitis and arranged in random order. These short chapters would be much improved by being expanded with more details and a bibliography, but all references (which are not annotated in the text) are lumped together at the end of each section. These are comprehensive, but the difficulty of sorting out those on sarcoid, for example, from the rest of the 7 pages of references makes them of no great practical use. At the end of the book there are 12 pages of colour prints which are previously referred to in the text. These are helpful and of good quality.

This is a good book for the junior ophthalmologist or those with a passing interest in the subject. Overall, it has a different and useful approach to the subject but would have benefited from more thought and detail in its planning. It is too concise and lacking in detail to be authoritative, but perhaps further editions might remedy this. (The authors ask in the preface for advice from their readers for future editions.) In spite of these failings I think it is probably the best book on uveitis for clinicians available at present.

D. J. SPALTON

Notes

Glaucoma study grants

A Glaucoma Group Travel Fellowship sponsored by Merck Sharp and Dohme will assist a visit to a hospital or research centre during the academic year starting 1 October 1984.

The award will be equivalent to £1500. The purpose of the award is to enable the successful applicant to gain experience and knowledge in pursuit of a specific project related to glaucoma.

A Glaucoma Group Research Grant sponsored by the International Glaucoma Association will be available for a research project related to glaucoma, preferably clinically orientated, for 1984. The award will be equivalent to £2500. The grant may be used towards salary or project expenses or for buying equipment. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae with information on their research project and details of proposed visit (preferably with confirmation from the centre/s visited) to Dr S. Nagasubramanian, Secretary of Glaucoma Group, Glaucoma Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital, High Holborn, London WC1V 7AN. The closing date for applications for these awards is 15 June 1984. The successful candidate will be informed by August 1984.

Postgraduate course in ophthalmology

An international postgraduate course in ophthalmology will be held on 11–12 May 1984 at the Mercy Maternity Hospital, East Melbourne, Australia. It will be conducted by the University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology in association with the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Details from Robin Orams, Office for Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia 3052.

Ocular fluorophotometry

The Second International Symposium on Ocular Fluorophotometry and a meeting of the International Society of Ocular Fluorophotometry will be held on 28–29 April 1984. It will be at the David Cohen Hall, West Coast Symphony Building, 709 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, Florida, USA. Fee US\$60.00. Details from Norman P. Blair, MD, University of Illinois, Eye and Ear Infirmary, 1855 West Taylor Street, Chicago, Ill 60612, USA.

Canadian Ophthalmological Society

The 47th Annual Meeting will be held on 24–27 June 1984 at the Québec Hilton International, Québec City, Québec, Canada. Further information from Canadian Ophthalmological Society, PO Box 8844, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3J2.

Update in ophthalmology

A two-day update seminar will be held on 14–15 April 1984 at the Podell Auditorium, Beth Israel Medical Center, 10 Nathan D. Perlman Place, New York, NY 10003, USA. Fuller information from Beverley R. Baptiste, Medical Education, Beth Israel Medical Center.

Facial surgery

The Interspecialty Facial Surgery Congress for Aesthetic, Cancer and Reconstructive Surgery will meet at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, New York. Sponsor: the International Oculoplastic Society, Inc. Further details from Ms J. Weschner, c/o Pierre Guibor, MD, 630 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10021, USA.