Correspondence

Foveomacular retinitis

Sir, Kuming’s description1 from South Africa of 10 cases of foveomacular retinitis as an entity distinct from solar retinopathy rekindles old controversies.1–3 A knowledge of the racial origin of their patients would be helpful, as a predominance of low pigmentation has been noted in other series.3 In view of more recent reports,4,5 including one example from our own series,6 indicating that sunbathing without direct sungazing may provoke this retinal lesion, there would appear to be only one aetiology.

Regarding the nature of the phototoxic macular lesion, I feel that a good clinicopathological correlation is achieved with recourse to experimental work.6,11 The essential finding is that of pigment epithelial depigmentation associated with filamentary proliferation giving rise to a feature designated as a fibrillar ‘tuft’ in our own report.9

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N A JACOBS

References


Lenses for fundus examination

Sir, Many ophthalmologists in training, especially in the junior grades, are faced with significant expense when acquiring all the necessary tools of the trade. It may be of interest to know that there are alternative sources for some of these items, in particular the lenses used for fundus examination by the indirect method, using either the indirect ophthalmoscope or the slit-lamp microscope.

The Coi aspheric stand magnifier uses a high quality aspheric plastic lens and is available in powers of 20 and 28 dioptres. Removal of the legs (Fig. 1) leaves a perfectly functional lens which compares favourably with ‘indirect’ lenses costing 15 times as much. These lenses do of course scratch very easily and may need to be replaced every year or two.

90-dioptre aspheric lenses are extremely useful for examining the optic disc and macula, without the need for a contact lens, while the patient is sitting at the slit-lamp. Small lenses of approximately the same power are available

Fig. 1 Stand with legs removed.
from optical equipment suppliers for a few pounds (Fig. 2). They are not aspheric and so tend to distort the image somewhat, but in my experience this distortion is not significant. RAYMOND BROWN Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, Church Street, Birmingham B3 2NS

Book reviews


This book is a very able revision and restyling of an old and successful favourite. It is strongly recommended, especially to young doctors wishing that they had spent more time on ophthalmology as an undergraduate and now facing difficult and crucial decisions. It will also interest older general practitioners having learnt the hard way, now realising the many advances in ophthalmology in recent years and wishing to know more about them. ROIVER


Textbooks on genetic eye disease are always most welcome, and this second edition of Goldberg's book is no exception. I read it with both pleasure and some frustration. The first seven chapters, on methods of study in genetic eye disease, provide an excellent introduction to modern applied human genetics and can be recommended to all who wish to understand the 'new genetics'. The remainder of the book is concerned with the genetic determination of clinical eye disease and includes several excellent chapters, as well as the frustrating omission of several important genetically determined eye diseases which preclude this being as useful a 'bench book' for the practising ophthalmologist as it could be. It can, however, be recommended to all with an interest in paediatric ophthalmology and genetic eye disease, and particularly to ophthalmologists in training. BARRIE JAY

Notes

Australia Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Foundation

The Australian Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Foundation will be holding an international workshop on cranio-facial trauma in Adelaide, South Australia, on 9–14 October 1988. Details from Mrs D Moody, Executive Officer, 226 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide S A 5006, Australia.

Corneal graft failure

The 4th Dermot Pierse lecture will be given by Professor DJ Coster (Adelaide, Australia) in the Barnes Hall, Royal Society of Medicine, on 23 September 1987. Its title will be 'The mechanism of corneal graft failure.' The lecture will start at 1845 h and will be preceded by wine and canapés from 1800 h. Further information obtainable from Dr H Jonathan Kersley, 80 Harley Street, London W1N 1AE.

Retinitis pigmentosa

The Fifth International Retinitis Pigmentosa Congress will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Melbourne, Australia, on 4–7 November 1988. It will follow the Annual Meeting of the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmology on 29 October–4 November 1988. Details from the Conference Secretary, 46A Oxley Road, Hawthorn 3122, Victoria, Australia.

Plastic surgery

A postgraduate course on Ophthalmic, Plastic, and Reconstructive Surgery – Past, Present, and Future, will be held on 10–11 December 1987 at the Hyatt on Union Square Hotel, San Francisco, USA. Details from Extended Programs in Medical Education, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, CA 94143, USA.

European meeting

The 18th European Ophthalmology Meeting will be held by the European Contact Lens Society of Ophthalmologists and the Belgian Society of Contact Lenses and Intraocular Implants at Brussels on 16–18 September 1988. Details from Dr Kelman Wisnia, General Secretary Soboecco, Avenue Jeanne 19A, Box 16, 1050 Brussels, Belgium.