A N Cameron, MB, ChB, FRCSEd, DOMS

Angus Neilson Cameron, who died 19 February 1987, was also a keen member of the Court of Assistants of the Society of Apothecaries and became master in 1962-3. He was appointed deputy hospitalier in 1960 and hospitalier in 1969 of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, a post he held until 1980, when he was honoured by the distinction of a Knight Grand Cross.

His abiding interest in ophthalmology was in ocular motility, and he became an international figure and world authority on the surgical aspect of this subspecialty. He was appointed president of the International Strabismological Association.


He wrote several textbooks, the first of which was Practical orthoptics in the treatment of squints in 1937 with Sylvia Jackson; this was later rewritten with the help of K C Wybar. He also re-edited Chavasse’s edition of Worth’s squints with the help of the Hon G J O Bridgeman, and with A G Cross he edited May and Worth’s disease of the eye, 13th edition. He made many contributions to textbooks of surgery by chapters on his subject.

Keith Lyle was a keen teacher and enjoyed instruction of students, both junior and senior. It was his interest in teaching which induced him to accept the burden of being dean of the Institute of Ophthalmology at a time when many Commonwealth students came to London to sit for the Diploma in Ophthalmology granted by the Royal Colleges. He was a man of great industry and was able to accept more than the average share of extramural duties because of the self-disciplined organisation of his day. He was either working at full stretch with little time to spare ('standing around in groups is not one of my hobbies') or relaxing with his family at home. Horse riding was his main form of exercise in middle age, though he had been a keen rugby and squash player in his youth.

As a result of his extremely busy life he was unintentionally a slightly distant figure in the larger family of ophthalmology but much admired for his dependable opinion and as a generous donor of sound advice; indeed he was rightly regarded as a pillar of British ophthalmology. When he retired from his hospitals in 1969 he continued to conduct his private practice and serve as hospitalier of St John Ophthalmic Hospital. This voluntary work away from the rivalries of a competitive life gave him much inner satisfaction and peace of mind.

He is survived by his wife Jane, who supported him in all his activities, one son, and three daughters.

Following the literary tradition of his family, he edited the student journal Sphinx, and his regard for medical literature remained important throughout his life. After hospital appointments in Liverpool and visiting Australia he entered general practice in Derbyshire, where he had personal experience of the hard life of a mining community.

At the age of 46 years he returned to his special interest in ophthalmology and was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, in 1950. In 1951 he was appointed consultant to Lichfield and Tamworth Hospital Groups with operating sessions at the Wolverhampton and Midland Counties Eye Infirmary. He became an active member of the Committee of the Eye Infirmary and will be remembered for his gentle and constructive approach to the solution of difficult problems. He was a faithful colleague and as loyal to the traditions of good medical practice as to his Highland ancestry.

In 1932 he married a fellow graduate, Winifred Walls, who died three years ago, a loss he felt deeply. There were no children.

Keith Lyle was a keen teacher and enjoyed instruction of students, both junior and senior. It was his interest in teaching which induced him to accept the burden of being dean of the Institute of Ophthalmology at a time when many Commonwealth students came to London to sit for the Diploma in Ophthalmology granted by the Royal Colleges. He was a man of great industry and was able to accept more than the average share of extramural duties because of the self-disciplined organisation of his day. He was either working at full stretch with little time to spare ('standing around in groups is not one of my hobbies') or relaxing with his family at home. Horse riding was his main form of exercise in middle age, though he had been a keen rugby and squash player in his youth.

As a result of his extremely busy life he was unintentionally a slightly distant figure in the larger family of ophthalmology but much admired for his dependable opinion and as a generous donor of sound advice; indeed he was rightly regarded as a pillar of British ophthalmology. When he retired from his hospitals in 1969 he continued to conduct his private practice and serve as hospitalier of St John Ophthalmic Hospital. This voluntary work away from the rivalries of a competitive life gave him much inner satisfaction and peace of mind.

He is survived by his wife Jane, who supported him in all his activities, one son, and three daughters.

**Book reviews**


Glaucoma, like the poor, will always be with us. As with any familiar subject the very constancy of its presence means that it tends to be ignored. The old familiar methods of diagnosis and treatment are always relied upon, and nothing is new. Yet changes are occurring, and, as the editors here point out, in recent years ‘new methods of interpretation, analysis and investigation’ have led to a better understanding of the pathogenesis and early changes in the development of primary open angle glaucoma. These authors bring to our attention the observations by a number of writers whose aim it is to show us what is new in their respective fields.

What do these writers tell us? The chapters by Grierson, Quigley, and Greve on the outflow apparatus, optic nerve, and visual function are essential reading for all ophthalmologists. In these review articles the writers give first hand accounts of the advances that have been made in their subjects and do so with clarity and precision. By comparison some of the other chapters reveal that little change has occurred over many years. In particular the chapter on ‘Congenital glaucoma’ would suggest that no change has occurred in the diagnosis and management of these diseases over the last 10 to 15 years (as shown by the references and the standard illustrations). Other chapters on medical and surgical treatment are more encouraging, though the pace of change has, perhaps of necessity, been less dramatic than in the basic glaucoma sciences.

A book of this nature is bound to be selective. This reviewer would like to have seen chapters on the analysis of the topography of the optic disc, more reference to 5-fluorouracil, perhaps some word on seton devices such as that introduced by Molteno, all of which have greatly helped us in the management of primary open angle

This handbook is the latest title in the Environmental Health Criteria series commissioned by the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), and it documents the known effects of ammonia on human health and the quality of the environment.

Prepared by a distinguished WHO task group, this report considers the environmental sources and levels of ammonia with respect to human exposure, the important effects on aquatic organisms, and the consequences of short and long term exposure. Atmospheric ammonia is principally derived from natural biological activity, but point sources from sewage treatment and industrial plants may give rise to local regional increases in concentration and contamination of surface waters. There are important toxic effects on aquatic organisms, in particular fresh-water fish, and they can present an important pollution problem. There is no evidence that ammonia is mutagenic in mammals or carcinogenic following long term exposure. Indeed ammonia does not appear to represent a direct threat to man except as a result of accidental exposure, with the familiar irritant or caustic effects. Exposure to ammonia in water supplies and food appears insignificant compared with the nitrogen intake through the diet available as metabolic ammonia. The effects of short term inhalation and oral exposure are described, but the ophthalmologist will be disappointed by the passing reference to the acute effects of ammonia on the eye. In general, the report makes interesting reading and there is clearly little room for complacency, since point source emissions of ammonia from urbanisation, industry, and farming when deposited in a sensitive environment can induce significant toxic effects on man and his environment.

ROGER A HITCHINGS


For many years the world of glaucoma was dominated by two standard textbooks 'Lecture notes in glaucoma' by Chandler and Grant, and Becker and Shaffer's 'Diagnosis and therapy of the glaucomas.' Both offered in a single volume information about the whole subject of glaucoma. The former was characterised by a personal approach, cases histories, and no illustrations, while the latter was illustrated with good quality photographs, diagrams, and graphs crisply laid out and fairly didactic. Residents and glaucoma fellows used one (or both, for their emphases differed) for all essential information on the glaucomas. These books were the launching pads into the universe (field?) of glaucoma. These two standard books have now been joined by a third, 'Textbook of Glaucoma' by M Bruce Shields.

The 'Textbook' (as it will surely become known) arose out of an earlier 'Study guide for glaucoma' and is slightly misleadingly shown as a second edition. The textbook may be seen as an updated expanded volume of the study guide which has so outgrown its predecessor as to merit more than the term 'revised edition.' Using a standard chapter format the author covers the whole of the subject in just over 500 pages. Each chapter begins with an overview (summary) providing a framework for the beginner. The style is easy to follow and well written. The text and opinions are backed by 3950 references (up to July 1985), so that the book will act as

ROBERT J COOLING


The author is an ophthalmic pathologist with a rich experience based on personal study of specimens submitted to the Eye Pathology Institute in Copenhagen. With his expertise in clinical ophthalmology and long practice in lecturing to students in both ophthalmology and pathology, he is thus well equipped to compose an authoritative text acceptable to trainees in either discipline.

Before launching into a systematic, tissue-orientated account of the histopathology of ocular disease he provides an eminently practical and useful introductory section which tells the aspiring ophthalmic pathologist how to process and examine the eye and its adnexal tissues and how to interpret a range of staining methods. Given the stated readership this is a most valuable inclusion, and, although there is some risk in writing at this level, the author has judged the matter nicely and the result is neither condescending nor overelaborate.

Within a fairly short space few disorders of importance are omitted, and there is a wealth of apposite illustrations, mostly of histological preparations. Those incorporated within the text are in monochrome and are of generally acceptable, if not outstanding, quality, but an appendix provides helpful colour representations of the several staining reactions to which the text alludes. The text itself is concerned principally with histological descriptions and cannot often be faulted.

If there is a criticism it is that from the ophthalmologist's point of view a little more emphasis on the biological nature of the various lesions and their expected behaviour might have been useful. This is particularly relevant in respect of diseases, such as the non-neoplastic disorders of the retina, in which histopathological examination is rarely necessary to establish the diagnosis and is put to best advantage, if used, to derive an improved understanding of the disease process. Correspondingly, purely descriptive accounts in such circumstances are of little avail unless there is some attempt to explain how the changes come about.

But one cannot have everything without expansion in space and cost, and this is an intentionally short and moderately priced book. The above criticism is offered in a constructive spirit relevant to the future editions which must surely come, because it is much the best short book on the subject at present available.

ALEC GARNER

Book reviews