

Toxicology of the Eye. 3rd Edn. By W. MORTON GRANT. Pp. 1083. US\$ 125.00. Charles C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1986.

There can be few ophthalmologists who have not at some time or other searched the pages of this classic manual of ocular toxicology. Indeed, the dishevelled condition of previous editions to be found in any ophthalmic library speaks for itself. Encyclopaedic in its scope and unrivalled as a reference source, the many distinctive and endearing qualities have more than justified the eminence of this work in the ophthalmic literature.

Updating a work of this nature undoubtedly presents a formidable and painstaking task which the author has accomplished admirably by condensing much of the older literature to make way for new material. The original format and style of the text are unchanged, bearing the personal stamp of the author with the inclusion of many original and useful personal observations. The text is divided into four sections including an introductory outline of the toxic effects of drugs on the eyes and vision arranged on an anatomical basis. From Acacia to Zyklon, the alphabetical listing of individual agents is remarkably comprehensive and provides a description of the local as well as systemic adverse reactions where applicable. Drugs are listed under their generic names but with reference to commonly used proprietary preparations. The dual referencing system can on occasions be somewhat cumbersome, with current and major references appearing at the end of each synopsis together with a bibliography of numbered references for the complete text immediately following the index. The third section contains an excellent summary of the contemporary treatment of chemical burns of the eyes. The fourth section is given over to a brief synopsis of methods used in the evaluation of ocular drug toxicity. There is an exhaustive index that allows easy cross referencing.

A considerable volume of new material has been incorporated, for example botulinum A toxin, viscoelastic materials, current antiproliferative agents, the toxicity of intravitreal antibiotic therapy, and the side effects of beta blocking agents to name but a few. Inevitably, pharmacological data of this type rapidly become outdated, and one must therefore look to national registries of drug induced ocular side effects for additional information. Equally, it is not surprising to encounter a few minor omissions: for example, there is no mention of the inflammatory effects of photochromic glass retained within the eye or the effects of methylisocyanate as dramatically witnessed in the Bhopal incident.

With the publication of the third edition this book remains the most authoritative and incomparable work on ocular toxicology. Whether it is the occasional urgently needed reference or the gentle browse, the mine of fascinating information provides enjoyable and compelling reading. It goes without saying that a copy of this book should always be to hand in any accident and emergency department and all ophthalmic libraries.

R COOLING

Notes

Ophthalmic photographers

An International Conference on Ophthalmic Photography will be held at Singapore on 12–15 March 1990. Details from Lawrence M Merin, RBP, Meeting chairman, c/o Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine, 6501 Fannin, Houston, Texas 77030, USA.

American Academy of Ophthalmologists

The 92nd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology will take place on 8–12 October 1988 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, in the United States. Further information from Meetings Department, American Academy of Ophthalmology, PO Box 7424, San Francisco, CA 94120-7424, USA.

Association for Eye Research

The twenty-ninth meeting of the AER will be held in Albena, Bulgaria, on 25–29 September 1988. Further information from the Programme Secretary, Dr John Tiffany, Nuffield Laboratory of Ophthalmology, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6AW. Deadline for abstracts is 1 May 1988. The AER Publication Award will be made at this meeting for the best paper in any language, by either members or non-members of AER, published in the 12 months preceding the meeting. Eligible authors must be under the age of 35. In the case of multiauthored papers the award will be made to the main author, and the entry must be accompanied by a statement signed by each author, indicating who this is. The work described must relate to the eye and be original or based on a previously evolved technique or method. Nominations (eight reprints or eight copies of the manuscript accepted for publication) must be made through a member of the AER to the General Secretary: Professor Martin Reim, Abtlg. Augenheilkunde, Med. Fakultät der RWTH Aachen, Klinikum, Pauwelsstrasse, D-5100 Aachen, West Germany, not later than 1 July 1988.

New Ophthalmic Literature

Ophthalmic Literature has been revised and improved. Six issues plus index appear annually, providing lists of contents of the major ophthalmic journals, and abstracts of articles from ophthalmic journals and of articles of ophthalmological interest in other journals. Recently published books are also listed. The editor is J H Kelsey, FRCS, at the Institute of Ophthalmology, Judd Street, London WC1H 9QS.