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Perhaps inevitably in a multi-authored work there is considerable overlap between contributions, especially from the basic scientists, most of whom cover much the same ground in their introductions before describing their experiments. The question of the exact functions of the dopaminergic neurons remains open. There is speculation that they modify the receptive field properties of ganglion cells and are concerned with the tuning and amplification of foveal vision. Clinicians among the contributors describe abnormalities of contrast sensitivity, visually evoked potentials, and the pattern electroretinogram in Parkinson's disease which improve with treatment, but it is not clear that these have any functional significance for the patients.

For the practising clinical ophthalmologist this book is a reminder of the enormous complexity of retinal neuronal function and an interesting insight into the methods used to decode it. It would be an appropriate purchase for any library of visual science.

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The third edition of this famous textbook comprises three volumes and contained for most readers all currently available knowledge. The third volume of the 4th edition has now appeared, and we are promised two further volumes on choroidal vascular disease, trauma, and infectious diseases. Thus our first consideration must be to congratulate the author and admire his ability to gather and display so much knowledge.

The third volume considers tumours of the eye, the orbit, and the brain and related conditions. The first chapter describes the symptomatology of tumours in different sites, and though 200 pages in length there is a bibliography of 15 pages! This is followed by tumours of neuroectodermal origin with a full discussion of the recent state of the art regarding chiasmal and optic nerve gliomas. This is followed by another excellent chapter on meningiomas, with particular emphasis on lesions affecting the anterior visual system. It is sad in some ways that the author has decided to omit to a great extent the use of CT scanning and magnetic resonance imaging in the illustrations, as these tests now play such a vital role in diagnosis and management. Pituitary tumours and craniosynostogies are covered in greater detail than in earlier editions. The last chapter is a review of the role of the most illustrators follow, with clinical and numerous pathological illustrations of tumours and vascular anomalies involving the orbit. An interesting chapter well worth perusing is that on the retina. The last chapter on pituitary tumours is a must for all interested in the medical and paediatric aspects of ophthalmology. It is a chapter on the phakomatoles. Many will see for the first time a photographic leaf of the mountain ash which provides such a characteristic diagnostic sign for tuberculous sclerosis.

One could make minor comments about this being an encyclopaedia, with numerous facts and an extensive review of the literature, rather than a critical and advisory clinical textbook. However, this would be to belittle our great gratitude to the author for providing such an outstanding volume for the reader to savour. A worthy successor has therefore been found to Walsh and Hoyt and the reputation established by Walsh, and then Walsh and Hoyt. This volume deserves a place on every library bookshelf and I am sure many individual libraries.

MICHAEL SANDERS


This small book contains 200 multiple choice questions in ophthalmology arranged in five sections to cover introductory anatomy and physiology, medical and surgical ophthalmology, and blindness. Each question has a stem and five options, so that altogether there are 1000 individual questions and answers. The book is arranged so that questions appear on one page and answers on the following page. In many instances only an indication of whether the statement was true or false is given, but for about half of the questions a brief explanatory note is included to indicate why the answer should be true or false.

The book is intended for undergraduate use, but the standard is probably a little high for the average undergraduate, and the book might be of use to the postgraduate starting ophthalmology. For the undergraduate to read through the questions and answers would certainly be educative, and I am sure would prove helpful in preparation for an MCQ examination in ophthalmology.

The authors have successfully avoided ambiguity in the questions, though here and there is a slight hint of unfairness. For example, the common mistake of having options which are not completely independent of each other occurs. This is, however, a minor criticism of a useful booklet which is good value at the price.

WALLACE S FOULDS


This book gives a summary of the Third General Assembly of the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness held in New Delhi 1986. It looks back to what has been achieved over the previous decade in the prevention of blindness while stressing the challenge of the future, with an estimated 30 million people in the world suffering from blindness, of which 80% are preventable. Some of the best illustrated chapters follow, with clinical and numerous pathological illustrations of tumours and vascular anomalies involving the orbit. An interesting chapter well worth perusing is that on the retina. The last chapter on pituitary tumours is a must for all interested in the medical and paediatric aspects of ophthalmology. It is a chapter on the phakomatoles. Many will see for the first time a photographic leaf of the mountain ash which provides such a characteristic diagnostic sign for tuberculous sclerosis.

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