basilic) vein from the brachial artery, a needle from the vein can puncture into the artery on flexion of the forearm. Rubinstein suggested the use of a specially designed armrest with the fundus camera, which can help avoid this. Careful selection of a vein and careful insertion of the venous cannula are necessary to avoid inadvertent arterialisation until such a welcome accessory is available.

I am grateful to Mr N W D Walshaw for his permission to publish this case and the medical illustration department for its help with the photographs.

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**BOOK REVIEW**


External ocular diseases make heavy demands on available resources for both primary and secondary ophthalmic care. There have been few recent major texts on this subject which is beginning to change rapidly with the development of new concepts of ocular surface disease and a better understanding of inflammatory processes underlying many of the conditions. A new textbook might have been expected to consolidate this new knowledge. Dr Ostler’s book has been eagerly awaited.

The main strengths of this textbook are the high quality of the illustrations together with the coverage of a wide range of uncommon disorders. Its weakness is the use of the traditional approach. Individual disorders have been thoroughly dealt with in the text. This has been at the expense of providing concepts for the classification, diagnosis, and management of groups of diseases. This has resulted in a forbidding volume of text which is frequently repetitious. Summary tables have been used infrequently. The approach is didactic which may be appropriate for non-specialists in this field but does not permit the reader to evaluate the author's proposals critically. The lack of a comprehensive review of the literature will reduce the value of this book for the specialist reader.

The author has commented in the preface, that the book has been divided into two main sections. The first deals with the external eye on an anatomical basis to facilitate diagnosis. This has been done in outline form for the busy clinician. This section is intended to be partly independent of the second section in which disease entities are dealt with in more depth for reference purposes. This has resulted in frequent repetition in both the first and second sections. The disadvantage of dealing with diagnosis on an anatomical basis is that some disorders, with manifestations affecting the lids, conjunctiva, and cornea are therefore dealt with in four chapters (for example, staphylococcal blepharitis and herpetic eye disease).

The first section of eight chapters and 365 pages consists of six chapters dealing with diseases of the different anatomical constituents of the external eye and adnexa, sandwiched between an introduction and a chapter on general principles of management, and a chapter entitled ocular surface disorders but which deals with this concept in a limited way.

The remaining seven chapters include six which are devoted to infectious disorders that are segregated by organism with chapters on bacterial infections, chlamydial disease, rickettsial infections, viral infections, fungal ocular infections, and parasitic infections. A final chapter deals with diseases of non-infectious aetiology. One of the unusual features of the second part of the book is that the management of the systemic aspects of these diseases is discussed in some detail in a way which would be more appropriate to the general medical textbook. For example, the management of pneumonia and of the gastrointestinal complications of ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease are outlined at greater length than the management of atopic keratoconjunctivitis or alkali burns of the anterior segment.

The division into two sections is less than successful because of the almost complete lack of cross referencing between the first and second sections. Establishing whether or not there is further information in the second section about a condition described in the first can only be established by consulting the index. Some conditions in the first section are dealt with in more detail because they are not included in the second section in the text.

Diseases of the external eye have been difficult to classify, the pathogenesis is often obscure or ill understood, and clear management strategies are rarely available. This book will be useful in the library as a further source of material on external diseases. It will assist clinicians in the differential diagnosis of disorders of the external eye. Because of its bulk, layout, and approach it is unlikely to find a place on the shelf of the trainee or general ophthalmologist, or the specialist in this field. However, the deficiencies are more a reflection on the difficulty of handling this topic rather than on the author whose expertise as a clinician is frequently apparent.

JOHN DART