

## BOOK REVIEWS

**General Ophthalmology.** By D G Vaughan, T Asbury, P Riordan-Eva. Pp 468. £28.50. London: Appleton & Lange, 1992.

This is the 13th edition of *General Ophthalmology*, which was first published in 1958. The soft backed yellow cover with blue printing will be immediately familiar to its many readers. With 426 pages of text and 357 illustrations, in double columns, it is no longer than the previous edition but manages by changes in the layout – text, picture, and captions – to produce a page both easy to read and pleasing to the eye.

There are 25 eminent contributors to the 24 chapters. The opening chapters now begin with anatomy and embryology, eye examination, and commonly used medications. Chapters 4–13 are ocular subjects arranged in anatomical order. Chapters 14–19 cover general topics. There are concluding chapters on optics and refraction, low vision, blindness, and lasers in ophthalmology.

There are minor revisions and updated references throughout. Major changes include the opening chapter which encompasses all the anatomy and embryology, previously distributed with the relevant subjects. This provides a useful opening chapter but something of a loss in detailed reading of certain topics, where the appropriate physiology is retained. Lids and tears are in the same chapter. Uveal tract includes sclera and uveal tumours. The retina has been re-written with new illustrations.

Chapters 14–19 – about one quarter of the book – cover the topics likely to be of most interest to the more general reader – lengthy sections on neuro-ophthalmology and ocular disorders associated with systemic diseases; immunological diseases, paediatric and general aspects, trauma and prevention. The chapter on special subjects of paediatric interest has been enlarged to include investigation of the blind baby and learning difficulties. General aspects mention maternal inheritance and trauma, prevention, and lasers are all usefully brought up to date.

The appendices on visual standards, practical factors in illumination and rehabilitation of the visually handicapped and special services available for the blind are based on the American standards and services and may not therefore be relevant to the United Kingdom.

This is an excellent book for undergraduates, is a good text for those beginning ophthalmology, and is an excellent reference for the medical practitioner in many branches of medicine and surgery as well as in general practice. It is also a suitable reference for nurses in ophthalmology and provides relevant clinical reference for opticians and optometrists.

R S BARTHOLOMEW

**Textbook of Glaucoma.** 3rd ed. By M Bruce Shields. Pp 682. £83. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1992.

This is the third edition of Bruce Shields's *Textbook of Glaucoma*. The main changes from the previous edition have been updating of the

literature and a little rearrangement of the chapters.

The book is divided into three sections. Firstly, the section on the basic aspects of glaucoma goes over the fundamental anatomy, physiology, and pathology of glaucoma with good chapters on the clinical evaluation of the optic nerve head and psychophysical tests. The introduction to visual field testing is acknowledged to be only an overview but in light of the importance of automated perimetry in the management and diagnosis of glaucoma I thought more space could have been devoted to it.

The second part is a comprehensive systematic description of the glaucomas – primary and secondary. This is an excellent section treating the less common secondary glaucomas particularly well perhaps at the expense of primary open angle glaucoma and its variants which are dealt with relatively briefly.

The final section covers the treatment modalities available in glaucoma, medical, surgical, and laser.

This book is well written and, with only one author, has a continuity of style. The references are extensive but the black and white photographs are of disappointing quality. It is particularly strong on secondary glaucomas but deals very briefly with any of the current controversies. With a subject as large as glaucoma to be covered in one textbook selection has to be made and Bruce Shields has succeeded in his aim of providing an excellent introduction to the glaucomas. I would recommend this book both to the general ophthalmologist and to those in training.

FD GREEN

**Corneal Surgery, Theory, Technique and Tissue.** 2nd ed. Edited by F S Brightbill. Pp 764. \$208 (£161). St Louis: Mosby, 1993.

This new edition of the book which arose following an international corneal and eye-banking meeting in 1985 has been updated extensively. Despite these origins, the authorship is essentially American and little concession is made to international ophthalmology. The authorship is extensive with over 150 names cited; these include many individuals at the forefront of corneal surgery but inevitably with such a large assemblage there are inequalities.

The book is divided into five sections: concepts of corneal function; penetrating keratoplasty; refractive surgery; and eyebanking, medical and administrative aspects. Because of the book's origins, these sections are perhaps inevitable but I believe they are responsible for the imbalance which is displayed and ultimately responsible for its major flaws. Over 25% of the book is devoted to eyebanking but only 10 pages are used to discuss surgery for ocular surface disease including the surgery of pterygium. An excessive amount of space is devoted to the administrative aspects of eye-banking. This seems especially irrelevant when there are so many inaccuracies, such as the chapter on international supply of corneal tissue which presents a very distorted view of eyebanking in the United Kingdom. In spite of the considerable space allocation to corneal donation, the book fails to probe deeply enough the most vital questions of the real role of tissue matching and the use of major immunosuppression in corneal transplantation.

The first section, devoted to concepts of corneal function relevant to surgery, is excel-

lent and worthy of inclusion in any corneal textbook. These chapters are lucidly written and are a valuable adjunct to the understanding of the mechanisms of repair.

The section on penetrating keratoplasty is much less satisfactory. This section and several of the authors could have benefited from a chapter on the assessment of the success of keratoplasty and promoting the understanding of statistical techniques especially actuarial survival of grafts which (sadly) was notably absent from much of this book. This criticism especially applies to the chapter 'Indications and contraindications' which is whimsical in parts and downright inaccurate in others. It seems to ignore a vast amount of published literature and makes meaningless statements such as 'One can get a clear graft more than 90% of the time. . . . Yes! but for how long – 2 weeks, 2 years, or 20 years? Do the authors not know that graft survival is a dynamic function?'

The basic technique of keratoplasty, in my view, is worthy of a far more detailed discussion highlighting areas of agreement and controversy. This would not only stimulate the reader but help resolve many of the questions that a less experienced surgeon might have. Some of the chapters were practical and helpful – for example, that dealing with suture removal, others (left unidentified to protect the guilty) seem to have been produced as an exercise in essay writing by individuals with no special expertise in or insight into the problem under consideration.

Some chapters are just too brief. Surely the excellent dissertation on lamellar grafting deserved more than seven pages. Does this reflect the lack of experience of this type of surgery in the United States or does it reflect a lack of appreciation of the value of the technique? In either case, the book should have been used to educate and encourage.

There is a lack of uniformity of approach in the book, perhaps unavoidable when so many authors are involved, but the effect is irritating and in some cases confusing. Some chapters are excellent reviews of their subject, some an idiosyncratic approach with token reference to literature other than that produced by the chapter's author, and some are essentially in the form of scientific papers. An example of the latter is 'Penetrating keratoplasty in children'. This is clearly written and is one of the few to provide hard data including properly constructed survival curves. The results, however, are those of Dr Stulting and do not discuss adequately the medical literature at large as I believe is necessary in such a major work.

Refractive surgery is considered at length including some highly experimental and, in some cases, abandoned procedures. This may relate to the delay in getting such a major work into production, and may also explain some inaccuracies in terminology – for example, HTLV rather than HIV.

There is much to be gained from this book but there is also much to be discarded. It is far from perfect but nevertheless it will find a place in most libraries where it deserves to be consulted. It is not a book for the generalist and perhaps the specialists are too pernickity (like me) to gain real satisfaction from it.

COLIN M KIRKNESS

**Colour Atlas of Corneal Topography. Interpreting Videokeratography.** By Y S Rabinowitz, S E Wilson, S D Klyce. Pp 116. £110. London: Waverly Europe, 1993.

This is a relatively slim volume of 116 pages

and at £110 rather expensive. The expense arises from the necessity of having a large number of colour illustrations (on the odd numbered pages). I understand the publisher's difficulty, but if I were buying this book I might feel rather aggrieved when most of the facing, even numbered pages are virtually devoid of text.

Computerised videokeratography is in its infancy and this book will certainly be of interest to many corneal surgeons who may already have purchased a videokeratoscope (VKS). The authors of this book have considerable experience in interpreting videokeratographic analysis although they, like the rest of us, are still exploring exactly how much information the VKS can give us. Nowhere in the text, however, was there discussion of the rationale for choosing to write about the output of only one VKS system (the Computed Anatomy System) when several others are produced; and nowhere did I see a discussion on the merits of the various techniques or devices. The book concentrates on the colour coded 'maps' and makes only passing reference to the many other graphic display modes that are possible with videokeratoscopes, or of the mechanisms for statistical analysis of the

numerical data. The untutored reader attempting to determine how the image of several illuminated rings is transformed into a contour map of the cornea, is not enlightened. While the algorithms may be confidential, the principles involved are not, and a brief description would have helped our understanding of the interpretation of the maps.

As befits a colour atlas on topography, a series of examples of the patterns associated with several types of corneal disease and ectasia are demonstrated but the range of pathology is limited. A disproportionate amount of space is dedicated to excimer laser surgery and interesting areas such as graft or contact lens related corneal warpage are almost ignored. One of the most important uses for VKS is in the control of post-keratoplasty astigmatism but penetrating keratoplasty is covered in only nine pages.

In summary, this book provides an initial insight into the possibilities of a VKS system and neatly collects a spectrum of useful though limited examples of the medium. I enjoyed skimming through the book but I think it fails to explore the possibilities of its subject.

COLIN M KIRKNESS

J V FORRESTER

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## IN MEMORIAM

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### Kenneth Colin Wybar 1921-1992

It is two years since Kenneth Wybar died. Those who knew him well would wish to be associated with this brief note on the anniversary of his death.

Kenneth Wybar will be specially remembered for his contributions to the science of ophthalmology. These were presented in many papers and books written in characteristic clear and explanatory style. He became a world authority on paediatric ophthalmology and was invited to give the most prestigious eponymous lecture on this subject, the Bielschowsky Oratorion, in the United States where his work was particularly highly regarded.

Kenneth Wybar's lasting memorial will be his vitality and unsparing vigour in any task he undertook. His approach to his work was selfless and he was lacking in envy of the success of others. He is warmly remembered by his many colleagues in ophthalmology.

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## NOTICES

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### Glaucoma Society (UK & Eire)

#### DAVID COLE TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP

The David Cole Travel Fellowship, instituted by Merck Sharp and Dohme in memory of Professor David Cole, will assist a visit to a hospital or research centre during the academic year starting 1 October 1994. The award will be equivalent to £2000. The purpose of the award is to enable the successful applicant to gain experience and knowledge in pursuit of a specific project related to glaucoma.

#### THE GLAUCOMA SOCIETY (UK & EIRE) RESEARCH GRANT

The Glaucoma Society (UK & Eire) research grant, sponsored by the International Glaucoma Association will be available for a research project clinically oriented to glaucoma for 1994. The award will be equivalent to £2500. The grant may be used towards salary or project expenses or for buying equipment.

#### THE GLAUCOMA SOCIETY (UK & EIRE) RESEARCH AWARD

The Glaucoma Society (UK & Eire) research award, sponsored by Alcon Laboratories will be given in support of a research project related to glaucoma. The award will be equivalent to £2000.

These awards are available to both medical graduates and non-medical scientists resident in the United Kingdom or Eire. They may be held concurrently with other awards.

For further details and application form please contact: Dr S Nagasubramanian, Secretary, The Glaucoma Society (UK & Eire), Glaucoma Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD.

The closing date for applications is 1 June 1994. The successful candidate will be informed by August 1994.

### European Society of Traditional Ophthalmology and Traditional Chinese Medicine

The 3rd international symposium of traditional medicine will be held on 12-22 May 1994 in Japan. Further details: Dr J Poletti, Société Européenne d'Ophthalmologie Traditionelle, CHIC Tarbes, BP 1330, 65013 Tarbes Cedex, France. (Tel: 62 51 54 55; Fax: 62 51 51 62.)

### American Academy of Optometry

A meeting of the American Academy of Optometry will be held on 28-30 May 1994, at the Amsterdam Marriott Hotel, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Further details: Academy Office, 4330 East-West Highway, Suite 1117, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA. (Tel: (301) 718-6500; Fax: (301) 656-0989.)

### Outcomes into Clinical Practice

A conference organised by the BMA, BMJ, and UK Clearing House on Health Economics will be held on 7 June 1994, at the International Hotel, Marsh Wall, Docklands, London. The meeting is particularly geared to clinical teams in both hospital and general practice. For further details: Pru Walters, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP. (Tel: 071-383 6518.)

### Office of Continuing Education

The Office of Continuing Education is holding a conference entitled 'Principles and Practices of Data Management for Clinical Trials' on 16-17 June 1994 at the Thomas B Turner

Building, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Further details: Conference Coordinator, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Office of Continuing Education, Turner Building, 720 Rutland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA. (Tel: (410) 955-2959.)

### International Conference on Biomedical Periodicals

The International Conference on Biomedical Periodicals will be held on 16-18 June 1994 in Beijing, China. Further details: Dr Yongmao Jiang, International Conference on Biomedical Periodicals, c/o Publishing House of Medical Journals, Chinese Medical Association, 42 Dongsi Xidajie, Beijing 100710, China. (Tel: 86-1-5133311 ext 362; Fax: 86-1-5123754.)

### Xth Congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology

The Xth Congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology will take place on 25-29 June 1995 at the Milanofiori Convention Centre, Milan. Further details: Organising Secretariat: Moretti, Rossi & Associates, Largo Settimio Severo, 4, 20144 Milano, Italy. (Tel: 39-2-48021681; Fax: 39-2-48021977.)

### XXVIIth International Congress of Ophthalmology

The International Council of Ophthalmology will hold its XXVIIth Congress in Toronto, Canada on 26-30 June 1994. Further details: Secretariat, 275 Bay Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1R 5Z5. (Tel: (613) 563-1994; Fax: (613) 236-2727.)