BOOK REVIEWS


There have been major changes in the basic concept of glaucoma since the first edition seven years ago, particularly with the understanding that factors other than intraocular pressure are important. This has resulted in a new definition of glaucoma as “a characteristic pattern of optic nerve damage with characteristic field loss” and a proposed new classification of the glaucomas based on five stages of the disease process. This edition has grown by 17 chapters and there are now 1783 well illustrated pages contained in three volumes with 130 contributors, all but a handful from North America.

The first volume covers the basic sciences with sections on anatomy, pathophysiology, and clinical measurement. Several additional chapters have been added in relation to the new concepts of optic nerve damage including those on genetics, animal models, growth factors, vascular regulation, and optic nerve regeneration. The relevance of these in relation to future potential treatments is highlighted. In the second part, particularly, there is a constant emphasis on clinical applications, examples being excellent chapters on gonioscopy, ultrasound biomicroscopy, and visual field assessment.

The second volume deals with the various clinical entities. The common and less common glaucomas are covered in depth. A lot of space is given to the importance of an unhurried discussion of the problems of diagnosis and management of the more difficult areas such as angle closure glaucoma, malignant glaucoma and normal tension glaucoma.

The final volume is devoted to glaucoma therapy. There are sections on medical, laser, and surgical treatments with summary overview chapters on the management of chronic open angle and angle closure glaucoma.

This is a large textbook and is a distillate of the present body of knowledge of the glaucomas. It is exhaustively referenced and therefore is an excellent tool for those involved in or embarking on research. There is a strong emphasis throughout the book, even in the basic science chapters, on the clinical aspects of glaucoma and the practical problems in management.

The Glaucomas has the hallmarks of a classic textbook. The content is comprehensive and each topic is introduced with its historical background. The vast experience of so many experts is brought together in a way that reads coherently and easily, even with the occasional touch of humour, owing to the skilful editing.

This is a splendid textbook that will prove indispensable not only for the glaucoma specialist but perhaps more pertinently for the general ophthalmologist whose practice will inevitably contain a large proportion of glaucoma patients.

FRANK GREEN


This book is a collation of the papers given at the Fifth International Conference on Vision in Vehicles at the University of Glasgow, 1993. The sponsors of the conference are jointly the Applied Vision Society, the Ergonomics Societies, and the Association of Optical Practitioners. The authors come therefore from a wide spectrum of disciplines interested in the control and driving of all kinds of vehicles, not only road going vehicles. Their interests include vehicle design, vehicle environment and highway design, and driving, as well as optical, ophthalmic, and psychophysical aspects of vehicle control.

Papers are presented from optometrists, ophthalmologists, vision scientists, psychologists, ergonomists, and vehicle and highway designers. There is considerable input from the road and traffic research institutes—that is, Road Research Laboratory (UK), INRETS (France), and industrial research departments from the USA, the UK, and the Netherlands.

Chapter 1 is broadly confined to driving simulator studies, chapter 2 relates to driver perception, and chapter 3 to cognitive aspects of driving with several psychophysical papers. There is here an important paper from Land and Horwood, on head and eye movements during driving, and at intersections. Papers on topics such as acuity and contrast sensitivity, and time to coincidence judgments are of most relevance to applied vision psychologists. Chapters 4–8 relate to vehicle guidance systems and to vision in restricted visibility. These papers emphasise that visual ergonomics are mainly of interest to vehicle designers.

Ophthalmologists will be most interested in chapter 3 (Land and Horwood as above) and chapters 7 and 9, with papers on visual impairment, an excellent optometric overview by Wood and Troutbeck, older drivers needs, visual fields in diabetics, contrast sensitivity through tinted windscreen, and antirefection coated spectacle lenses. In chapter 9 there are papers on saccades and the effect of alcohol on driving.

This book is required reading for those interested in the whole spectrum of highway and vehicle design and ergonomics, as well as driver visual performance.

GREG MUNTON


This book is aimed at the trainee ophthalmologist starting his post in ophthalmology and will be of value to those who have a deeper learning curve with much new information and new skills to acquire.

The intention is that the reader should learn good clinical practice from the start. The reader may wish to use the book as reading before clinical contact, but also as a reference manual to allow the correct performance of simple tasks.

The introduction expounds not only the virtues of ophthalmology itself, but also the virtues of the Johns Hopkins training program. How to become a good ophthalmologist is dependent on working hard. The book is intended to be a tool that the trainee can use to become a good ophthalmologist in a structured manner.


J A SCOTT

NOTICES

Residents’ Foreign Exchange Programme

Any resident interested in spending a period of up to one month in departments of ophthalmology in the Netherlands, Finland, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, France, Austria, or Portugal should apply to Mr Robert Acheson, Secretary of the Foreign Exchange Committee, European Board of Ophthalmology, Institute of Ophthalmology, University College Dublin, 60 Eccles Street, Dublin 7, Ireland.
Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute
The Johns Hopkins Medical Institution/Residents Association of the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute is holding its 57th clinical meeting at the Baltimore-Turner Auditorium, JHH on 1–2 May 1998. Further details: Ms Sharon Welling, Conference Coordinator, Wilmer B20 – Johns Hopkins Hospital, 600 North Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD 21287-5001, USA. (Tel: 410-955-5700; fax: 410-614-9632).

4th International Vitreoretinal Meeting
The 4th International Vitreoretinal Meeting will be held in Parma, Italy on 29–30 May 1998 at the University Eye Clinic. Further details: C Cantù and M A De Giovanni, Institute of Ophthalmology, University of Parma, Via Gramsci 14 - 43100 Parma, Italy. (Fax: ++39-521-292358; email: gnuzzi@rsadvnet.it)

11th Annual Meeting of German Ophthalmic Surgeons
The 11th Annual Meeting of German Ophthalmic Surgeons will be held on 28–31 May 1998 in the Meistersingerhalle, Nürnberg, Germany. Further details: Organisation Nürnberg GmbH, Wielandstrasse 6, D-90419 Nürnberg, Germany. (Tel: +49-911-331204).

9th British Association of Day Surgery Annual Scientific Meeting and Exhibition
The 9th British Association of Day Surgery Annual Scientific Meeting and Exhibition will take place at the Harrogate International Centre on 4–6 June 1998. Further details: Kite Communications, The Silk Mill House, 196 Huddersfield Road, Meltham, W Yorks HD7 3AP. (Tel: 01484 854575; fax: 01484 854576; email info@kitecomms.co.uk)

XVIIIth International Congress of Ophthalmology
The XXVIIIth International Congress of Ophthalmology will be held in Amsterdam on 21–26 June 1998. Further details: Eurocongres Conference Management, Jan van Goyenkade 11, 1075 HP Amsterdam, Netherlands. (Tel: +31-20-6793411; fax: +31-20-6737306; internet http://www.solution.nl/ico-98/)

First Combined International Symposium on Ocular Immunology and Inflammation
The First Combined International Symposium on Ocular Immunology and Inflammation will be held in Amsterdam on 27 June–1 July 1998. The meeting is sponsored by the International Ocular Immunology and Inflammation Society, the International Uveitis Study Group, and the Immunology and Immunopathology of the Eye Organisation. Further details: Professor Aize Kijlstra, The Netherlands Ophthalmic Research Institute, PO Box 12141, 1100 AC Amsterdam, Netherlands (email: a.kijlstra@amc.uva.nl)

ICOP 98
The next International Conference in Ophthalmic Photography (ICOP) will be held on 19–21 September 1998. Further details: Mrs Gillian Bennerson, Senior Ophthalmic Photographer, Bristol Eye Hospital, Lower Maudlin Street, Bristol BS1 2LX. (Tel: 0117-928-4677).

Vlth International Symposium on Graves’ Ophthalmology
The Vlth International Symposium on Graves’ Ophthalmology will be held on 27–28 November 1998 in Amsterdam. Further details: Amsterdam Thyroid Club, Department of Endocrinology, F9-171, Academic Medisch Centrum, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, Netherlands.

XIICongressEuropeanSocietyof Ophthalmology
The XII Congress European Society of Ophthalmology will be held in Stockholm, Sweden on 27 June–1 July 1999. Further details: Congress (Sweden) AB, PO Box 5819, S-114 86 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel: +46 8 459 66 00; fax: +46 8 661 91 25; email: soe@congrex.se; http://www.congrex.com/soe/

Visitors to the world wide web can now access the British Journal of Ophthalmology either through the BMJ Publishing Group’s home page (http://www.bmjpg.com) or directly by using its individual URL (http://www.bjophthalmol.com). There they will find the following:

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The web site is at a preliminary stage and there are plans to develop it into a more sophisticated site. Suggestions from visitors about features they would like to see are welcomed. They can be left via the opening page of the BMJ Publishing Group site or, alternatively, via the journal page, through “about this site”.

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