

BOOK REVIEWS

The Glaucomas, 2nd ed. Ritch R, Shields MB, Krupin T. Pp 1783; £229. London: Mosby, 1996. ISBN 0-8016-77025.

There have been major changes in the basic conception 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 optic neuropathy" 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 devoted to 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 glaucomas.

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

Vision in Vehicles—V. Edited A G Gale. Pp 410, \$147. Amsterdam: North Holland/ Elsevier, 1996. ISBN 0-444-81477-9.

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 Soci-

ety, 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 signalling, as well as optical, ophthalmic, and psychophysical aspects of vehicle control.

Papers are presented from optometrists, ophthalmologists, pure 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), as well as university and industrial research departments from the USA, 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 interpretation of road curves, 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 on vehicle 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 windscreens, and antireflection 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

Practical Ophthalmology—a Manual for Beginning Residents. By Fred M Wilson II. Pp 415. £27 (Members of BMA and AAO £25.) San Francisco: American Academy of Ophthalmology, 1996. ISBN 15 605 50341. This book is aimed at the trainee ophthalmologist starting his first post in ophthalmology who has a steep 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 expected of the trainee during his apprenticeship and later in his career, and the responsibilities, stresses, and ethics incumbent upon this. The duty of the trainee for continuing education is also underlined.

The process of history taking and clinical assessment is then elaborated upon. The more common methods of examination are described with explicit instructions in a clear manner, with explanation of the process and logic behind them. The assessment of visual function (acuity and refraction, binocularity) is dealt with in detail for both adults and children, as is the ocular motility examination with useful end of chapter summaries for the reader. Visual field testing is also dealt with in

a separate chapter with explanation and interpretation of the automated perimeter output. A useful chapter on the slit lamp is included with hands on tips and pertinent illustrations. External, anterior segment, and posterior segment examinations are dealt with in depth with explanation of normal (and normal ranges) as well as abnormal findings which the tyro will find useful. Advice regarding use of the indirect ophthalmoscopic methods with "hands on" tips is clear and well illustrated. The posterior segment chapter deals at length with the visualisation of the fundus and recording this by drawings. Likewise the external examination shows not only how to examine, but also to record lid and ptosis findings. I would have been pleased to have seen greater emphasis on similar schemes for the recording of anterior segment and corneal changes (for example, Waring and Laibson) and diagrammatic recording of strabismus (for example, Vivian and Morris, Kaye *et al*)—systems gaining wider popularity which allow quantitative evaluation over long periods for different observers.

The book ends with management of emergencies and trauma and finally appendices with pharmacological information regarding diagnostic and therapeutic agents.

This book is written in a very readable style with good illustrations, tables, summaries, and practice instructions for the performance of specific tasks. The British trained reader will have to adjust to the US terminology for therapeutics, units of measurement, and some aspects of practice. This book does, however, provide an excellent source of the information and material that is often not easily accessible in written form to the novice ophthalmologist, and crystallises that which is usually passed on by word of mouth from his immediate seniors, and some of which may have lost or gained its authenticity in the mists of time like much passed down in the oral tradition! Reading this book before encountering the patient will enhance the practice of the trainee. He will not, however, find it easy to carry in his pocket, nor is it encyclopaedic or exhaustive in its coverage. I was surprised at the omission of biometry technique, Frisby test, temporal artery biopsy, and only fleeting reference to the use of Bagolini glasses and Ishihara plates, while the text devoted to the Schiottz tonometer may be superfluous in contemporary UK practice. The index was clear, but I found this book to better if read in chapters rather than dipped into as a reference text. I would recommend ophthalmologists starting out on their careers to read it, and at the very beginning of their training.

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: +49-911-393160; fax: +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: Eurocongress 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)

2nd International Conference on Ocular Infections

The 2nd International Conference on Ocular Infections will be held on 22-26 August 1998

in Munich, Germany. Further details: Professor J Frucht-Pery, 2nd International Conference on Ocular Infections, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv, 61500, Israel. (Tel: 972 3 5140000; fax: 972 3 5175674 or 5140077; email: ocular@kenes.com)

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).

Vith International Symposium on Graves' Ophthalmology

The Vith International Symposium on Graves' Ophthalmology will be held on 27-28 November 1998 in Amsterdam. Further details: Amsterdam Thyroid Club, Department of Endocrinology, F5-171, Academisch Medisch Centrum, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, Netherlands.

XII Congress European Society of 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@congreg.se; http://www.congreg.com/soe/

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