

Recent Advances in Ophthalmology—7 Edited by S. I. Davidson and F. T. Fraunfelder. Churchill Livingstone

This is the 7th book in this series with an interval of 3 years since the last, though in an effort to keep up to date all contributions were written in the year prior to the publication (1984). The selected topics include therapy of herpes simplex, anterior segment surgery, viscoelastic substances, radial keratotomy, intraocular lenses, treatment of congenital cataracts, ocular phototoxicity, vitreous surgery, diabetic retinopathy, choroidal melanomas, macular disease with serous detachment, glaucoma and laser trabeculoplasty.

The quality of the contributions is variable but, on the whole, the book is better than its predecessors, and unfortunately this is mostly due to the higher American content; American authors providing 8 of the 13 chapters. The best chapters are those where the author provides real information and personal experience on a limited topic (eg, radial keratotomy, phototoxicity) whereas contributions on topics such as anterior segment surgery, intraocular lenses or diabetic retinopathy fail because they are too generalised to provide the quality of information to change ones patient management.

Few ophthalmologists will want to own a personal copy of this book but many will find it useful and interesting material when browsing through it.

D J Spalton

Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. Transactions of the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology. Raven Press

Each year the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology holds its meeting, the Transactions of which are published in book form. The thirty-fourth annual session was devoted to strabismus and paediatric ophthalmology, and the 24 papers are divided equally between these two topics.

The 12 papers on various aspects of strabismus are each written by acknowledged experts in their subject. The contents of many

of these papers demonstrate, possibly unwittingly, that the management of strabismus is more an art than a science. I found the anecdotal approach of several of the authors both interesting and instructive, and can commend these papers to all those ophthalmologists who manage, or wish to manage, patients with strabismus.

The 12 papers on paediatric ophthalmology are more of a mixed bag, ranging from the excellent to the indifferent. I suspect that these varying papers on various unconnected topics in paediatric ophthalmology were of more interest to a live audience than they will be to the reader.

The final 100 pages of this book are devoted to several Round-Table Discussions, and these will be of particular interest to the experienced ophthalmologists who will be able to agree or disagree with many of the points made. Such a reader will probably enjoy much in this book.

Barrie Jay

Sarcoidosis and other Granulomatous Disorders by D. Geraint James and W. Jones Williams. W. B. Saunders Company

This short monograph reflects the life long interest of its senior author, Dr Geraint James, in the disease and its ubiquitous manifestations. The book provides short chapters reviewing all aspects of sarcoidosis from a historical review through pathology, to chapters on the main clinical patterns of involvement with short reviews at the end on topics such as immunology, aetiology, epidemiology and treatment.

Ophthalmologists will find the chapter on ocular and neurological involvement short and disappointing but this is a book to be savoured for the wealth of clinical experience that is offered, and to broaden ones knowledge of a disease which we all see, often bizarre in its manifestations, a difficult diagnostic problem and sometimes an even more difficult therapeutic dilemma. It is a book for the hospital library where it will be appreciated by every resident.

D J Spalton