

Book Reviews

The Atlas of Ophthalmic Surgery. Vol. II. Cornea, Glaucoma, Lens: Editors: Douglas D. Koch and George L. Spaeth. Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc. NY 1987.

The Atlas of Ophthalmic Surgery is divided into two volumes, the second of which covers cornea, glaucoma and lens. It has been written for all grades of ophthalmic surgeons and is generally a well presented text with clear and comprehensive illustrations. There are, however, a number of shortcomings which detract from an otherwise very pleasing atlas.

The second volume is divided into five sections; cornea, chamber angle, ciliary body, lens and anterior segment trauma. I would take issue with both the use of cyclocryotherapy as the preferred treatment of secondary glaucoma following corneal grafting and also the use of oral steroids following vitrectomy. Curiously, no mention is made of the use of sodium helonate in penetrating keratoplasty which is certainly a valuable adjunct to this type of surgery. Radial keratotomy is covered in great depth, although this procedure is rightly viewed with deep suspicion by many ophthalmologists. Unfortunately, all other aspects of refractive corneal surgery are not even mentioned.

The second section is devoted to the chamber angle with considerable space given to questionable procedure. Corneoscleral trepanation does not appear to offer any advantage over conventional trabulectomy and peripheral iridectomy with thermal sclerostomy is a somewhat outdated mode of surgical treatment. Glaucoma procedures using the laser were well covered, but I felt the admonitions with regard to laser trabeculoplasty pertinent. Again, there were certain important omissions in this section. No mention was made of the management of both early and established neovascular glaucoma, nor was the surgical treatment of intractable glaucomas covered.

The section on the ciliary body was most

interesting, representing the surgical views of a single author who is extremely experienced in this field. However, undue emphasis does appear to have been placed on certain somewhat esoteric and less generally accepted forms of surgery. This criticism may be illustrated by a consideration of the section on pars plana excision and anterior chamber reconstruction; the majority of surgeons in this field would surely choose assisted drainage surgery as a first option. Cycloendphotocoagulation, a recent promising advance in this field, has not been covered.

The fourth section on the lens comprised a curious mixture of the old and the new. The inclusion of procedures using a Graefe knife section and iris clip lens detracted from the excellent subsections on intracapsular lens implants in capsulotomy techniques.

The fifth chapter on the management of anterior segment trauma was very informative. This chapter comes close to the Editor's intention of providing a volume designed for all grades of ophthalmic surgeon.

In conclusion, therefore, this volume on anterior segment surgical procedures would be a useful addition to any ophthalmic library, if only for the illustrations alone, but in view of the shortcomings discussed, I do not think it represents a significant advance over currently available textbooks.

P. G. Watson

Manual of Cataract Surgery Robert M. Sinsky and Jay V. Patel

This small paperback describes techniques of extracapsular cataract surgery, phacoemulsification and posterior chamber lens implantation. The book is aimed at surgeons learning extracapsular surgery and each procedure is described step by step with excellent line diagrams of every stage.

In clinical practice a novice surgeon learning extracapsular surgery will adopt initially