

of corneal surgery in carefully selected patients.

M.J. Roper-Hall

Review of 'Infections of the Eye' edited by K.F. Tabbara and R.A. Hyndiuk

This large book contains excellent clinical descriptions of infections, especially of endophthalmitis, and covers the fields of bacteriology, virology, mycology, chlamydia and parasitic and protozoal diseases. As such, it can be considered a useful reference textbook, composed by different expert authors, with many valuable references. However, it also contains much general information about microbes, their epidemiology and life cycles and mechanism of action of antibiotics which makes this book unnecessarily long. It is aimed at clinical ophthalmologists with an interest in infection and has the advantage of containing a wide variety of information about ocular infections within one volume. It will also provide pathologists with many details of ocular infections, otherwise difficult to obtain, but is best considered as a general textbook for clinical management of infection and specimens suitable for diagnosis.

D.V. Seal

Ophthalmology Annual 1988 Ed. Robert D. Reinecke, Raven Press - New York

When reading this annual it is essential to remember that it is written by specialists with their own opinions on management and who trained or are working in the North American continent. With this in mind more than half the chapters make a pleasant evening's reading.

However, I do not agree with the editor that each chapter has "useful clinical pearls there for the taking". Two in particular were treated with such personal bias as to be controversial and thus of limited clinical value: Kelman's "Current uses and technical updates of phacoemulsification", which nevertheless had an entertaining sense of

drama and suspense and Pratt-Johnson's "Contact lens for aphakic infants", which was compensated for by the more practical chapter on the logistics of fitting lenses by Gold and his colleagues.

The opening chapters on glaucoma by Tomey and Jaffar are clear and read easily though certain aspects of the subject are still open to debate. How many advocate to their students the use of i.v. mannitol as a first line drug in acute angle-closure glaucoma irrespective of the patients age and why give diamox i.v. when in the non-vomiting patient it is well established that oral or parenteral administration have similar effect? Choroidal effusion after a trabeculectomy (other than the 'kissing type' or as one of the consultants I have worked for so aptly describes it, the 'Dolly Parton Sign') is not a serious post-operative complication. Indeed there is often a peripheral 360° tyre of effusion easily seen with an indirect ophthalmoscope. In the chapter on buphthalmos, the table of aetiologies is comprehensive but, without some indication of incidence, is misleading. When discussing surgery of this condition it was not explained why diamox was necessary post-operatively as most hyphemae are small and resolve within 36 hours, nor was it evident why atropine was used; this presumably can induce further amblyopia in an eye whose visual prognosis is already jeopardised.

Crawford's chapter on lacrimal surgery is full of easy-to-follow diagrams but why is it that when percentage figures are offered they never add up to 100! More could have been made of the 'clinical pearl' that probing should be avoided before the age of one: this was the most useful piece of advice in the whole chapter yet was slipped in so quietly as to go almost unnoticed.

For those who find examining visual acuity in children a stressful experience, the concise and honest account given by Fulton and her colleagues is refreshing.

The discussion on the explanation of intraocular lenses by Kraff is instructive as by its very title it is based on failure, but the presentation of data as lists of numbers is uninspired. Pie charts or histograms would have been less difficult to interpret. It would have

been interesting to see data comparing the number of explanations to the total of implantations in any one year.

Anisocoria, like nystagmus may be a daunting clinical entity: Schechter's flow-chart on the assessment of unequal pupils is helpful and succinct, however six pages of text on the pharmacology of the pupil and the Marcus Gunn phenomenon could usefully have been replaced by a simple large diagram.

Brown's exposé on the ocular ischaemic syndrome proceeds in a logical manner and is full of useful clinical and pictorial detail. Unlike some, it is a chapter from which one can easily grasp the contents on first reading. The prize for fulfilling Reinecke's promise in the preface goes to Kushner for his 'Functional amblyopia': it has just the right mixture of science and anecdote to read as if he were sitting across from you in a comfortable chair telling you a story. There is a balanced combination of clinical data and pictures, though it has to be said that the patching regimen in this country on the whole may not be as aggressive or long-lasting.

All in all there are more satisfactory than disappointing chapters, though many statements will find an equal number of fans and detractors. Whatever one's clinical habits it is always interesting to read about someone else's *modus operandi*, but this book is not a purchase for exams. Rather it belongs to an otherwise well stocked library, be it personal or hospital, for selective perusal at leisure.

Michele Beaconsfield

Cataracts. Transactions of the New Orleans Academy of ophthalmology, Ed DR Caldwell, Raven Press, New York. 1988

This prolix little volume is filled with contributions from well known and respected figures on the cataract scene in the United

States. It has the sole merit of bringing together a series of contemporary views between hard covers. There is little new or original and less hard science but a great deal of anecdotal documentation.

I find it hard to recommend this particular curate's egg.

Colin M. Kirkness.

Clinical Optics Troy E. Fannin and Theodore Grosvenor. Butterworths

As the authors say in their preface, this is a text intended for use by optometry students, technicians and dispensing opticians. It is a detailed treatise on the optics of spectacle lenses, their design and manufacture, with a chapter on the design and dispensing of frames. The optical principles of low vision aids and the optics of contact lenses are also covered.

The authors also say that they have assumed an understanding of the optics of thin and thick, cylindrical and toric lenses; prisms; chromatic dispersion, lens aberrations, interference, diffraction and polarisation. Full mathematical detail is given for the principles described, and each chapter ends with a list of questions and calculations for the reader to practise (answers are given at the end of the book).

While this is a detailed and highly technical book, it is written from a clinical point of view and the ophthalmologist can dip into it with profit. The text is readable and the diagrams clear. Details are explained which are not usually included in clinical texts on ophthalmic optics, and the interested clinician will find his understanding of the subject deepened. There is more to prescribing and dispensing spectacles than meets the eye!

The clarity and readability of this book should make it an asset to ophthalmic teaching centre libraries.

H. J. Frank.