

Book Reviews

Clinical Tests: Ophthalmology

M. J. E. Huber and M. H. Reacher

This small book is an illustrated list of tests available in ophthalmic examination. It does not give indications of the relative usefulness or reliability of these tests (e.g. contrast sensibility, ability or inability to pick up 100's and 1000's), nor does it group together tests which are apparently clinically linked (visual acuity, refraction, squint).

I personally do not find lists, divorced from clinical applications, examples and interpretations, particularly satisfactory. However, it may be found a helpful adjunct to a basic clinical ophthalmic textbook as used by nurses and other interested paramedical staff, both during their training and after qualification, as a quick pictorial reference.

Michelle Beaconsfield

Manual of Fundus Fluorescein Angiography

Amresh Chopdar, Butterworth Scientific Limited

This concise book on fluorescein angiography of the ocular fundus is essentially an atlas which describes and elegantly illustrates a broad range of retinal, choroidal and optic nerve head disorders.

The introductory chapters briefly trace the history of ocular fluorescein angiography and describe the essential equipment and materials required for the day to day running of a fluorescein angiographic service. Normal and abnormal fluorescein patterns of the fundus are also concisely outlined and a useful flow diagram is provided for the easy interpretation of abnormal hyper and hypofluorescent lesions.

The bulk of the manual is devoted to a basic description of retinal and choroidal vascular disorders and diseases of the macula and optic nerve head. Short chapters are also reserved for comments on diabetic retinopathy and

intraocular tumours. Each chapter is liberally illustrated with good quality colour fundus photographs and relevant corresponding fluorescein angiograms, and the pathological changes are succinctly described in the text and in the photographic footnotes. The book concludes with a brief reference section and some suggestions for further reading which are useful but not comprehensive. As fluorescein angiography is an important tool for identifying fundus lesions suitable for photocoagulation and assessing the effectiveness of treatment, I believe a section on this subject might be included in future editions with advantage.

Overall, the text is very readable and the fluorescein angiograms very adequately illustrate the fundus pathology under discussion. In some areas the terminology is imprecise, and occasional inaccuracies of fact and editing errors slightly detract from the text. This manual should prove useful for postgraduate trainees in the specialty and practising ophthalmologists, particularly those interested in initiating or organising a fluorescein angiographic service.

Desmond Archer

Basic Refraction Techniques

By David D. Michaels. Raven Press, New York.

This is a manual of practical refraction for the absolute beginner. It describes the actions necessary to refract a patient in the consulting room with a superficial explanation of the underlying principles of optics and refraction. The last chapter consists of brief paragraphs telling the ignorant refractionist what to do if the patient does not like his glasses, but only in terms of practical manoeuvres. For example, intolerance of bifocals is dealt with in terms of the patient being unsuitable for bifocals or changing the segment size or type. However, nowhere in the book is there a dis-