

cussion of the optical properties and problems of multifocal lenses.

The text is in very large print, N12 equivalent, (so that the beginner can refer to it in the dim light of the consulting room?). In contrast, many of the diagrams tend to be relatively small with crowded lines.

In short, a layman could plausibly conduct a simple sight test after reading this book but without sound understanding of the subject. Mercifully, sight testing is still the province of the qualified ophthalmologist and optometrist according to the law of this country. The information contained in this book would not begin to satisfy the requirements of the professional examining boards in the UK and I cannot recommend it to our junior staff.

H. J. Frank

Ophthalmic Clinical Debates

Thomas A. Deutsch

This book is written as a series of small debates and contains an eclectic mixture of subjects, all of which are common topical problems encountered in clinical practise.

The format of each chapter consists of a theoretical 'short case' introduced to highlight a specific therapeutic problem. Two contributors are then invited to discuss their approach to the management of this case.

The introduction admits that the 'debates' were often manufactured. In some sections the pairs of authors put forward arguments so similar that they concur. Other cases reveal only two plans of management when there are plainly many more to choose from. However, the book aims to broaden the readers outlook on the manifold possibilities of investigation and treatment of certain problems in which there is no certain right or wrong path to follow. This it achieves well.

Ophthalmic Clinical Debates has a very American approach to its problem solving not only in its entertaining phraseology but also in the organisation of the practitioners 'office' and routes of referral which often differs from the arrangement in this country.

The editor states that the book is a 'pot-pourri of common ocular problems' and I feel that it is a good coffee table book to dip into. It provides an adjunct to standard textbooks

and is of value to ophthalmologists at all levels in refreshing and updating their management regimes.

Ruth Manners

Contact Lenses in Ophthalmology

M. S. Wilson, E. A. W. Millis
Butterworth & Co Ltd 1988

This is a concise and readable book which achieves its aims as an introductory text both for the ophthalmologist who wants to know more about the applications of contact lenses as well as those wishing to start lens fitting. The introductory chapters, with frequent use of summary tables, will be useful reading for those new to the field. The almost complete omission of the optics of lenses may be regarded with relief by some although an expansion here might further clarify the indications for different lens types. The subsequent chapters on the equipping of a practice and the choice and fitting of different lenses are good but with an unfashionable emphasis on the use of PMMA. The complications of lens wear are dealt with separately for each lens type which leads to some duplication and loss of consistency where more guidance in the diagnosis and management would be helpful. The final chapters deal concisely with the medical applications of lens use. There are useful references at the end of each chapter and a bibliography to guide the reader to alternative sources. Despite these reservations it is one of the best introductory texts on contact lenses for the ophthalmologist.

John Dart

Greer's Ocular Pathology

4th edition ed D. Lucas
Blackwell Scientific Publications

Greer, used by generations of aspiring ophthalmologists in Australia and the UK, has undergone a face-lift. In preparation for ten years, the new edition has changed size, shape and format. The transformation is more than skin-deep though and Dr David Lucas has improved the range of topics covered, the volume is profusely and well illustrated and a greater number of recent and comprehensive

references are included at the end of each chapter.

The style is still didactic and topic orientated, with most chapters being based on anatomical areas, starting with a brief description of normal structures, followed by subheadings, each with related compact paragraphs; entries are not wordy although since few statistics are cited, some of the statements are imprecise. Occasional oversimplifications are apparent but this is a book aimed at the novice in ocular pathology and other broader based and deeper texts are available to those who are moved to ask for more. The succinct format is complimented by some of the new chapters. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on the lens, a structure often all but ignored by light-microscopists and also the chapter on congenital anomalies, which is a useful guide to a difficult and complex subject.

I am often asked by those preparing for the FRCS and College of Ophthalmology examinations, to recommend 'a good textbook, . . . this is it; although it will no longer slip neatly into the pocket of a white coat, it also is not likely to remain unread on the shelf, long after the exams have been passed.

Aids to Ophthalmology

P. T. Khaw, D. S. Hughes, S. J. Keightley, R. F. Walters, A. R. Elkington
(Churchill Livingstone) 294 pages

Take four enthusiasts, toss in a well-seasoned examiner and the result should be a feast for examination candidates who would indeed be foolish not to buy this concentrated distillate of knowledge.

Anatomical and physiological as well as clinical data are presented in profusion as well as informative sections on relevant medical conditions such as diabetes and the collagen disorders. New material is present; the new WHO classification of trachoma is included. There is a plethora of old exam chestnuts such as the content of a vial of mydraine, the lethal dose of atropine and visual standards for driving. These and the many other examples are sometimes difficult if not impossible to find in conventional texts.

Fact, and not explanation, is what is contained within these covers. It is an *aide-*

memoire, a crammer, not a textbook. Hence I could not recommend it to medical students and others on the lower slope of the learning curve.

There are a few editorial lapses. Alkali burns and vernal disease are fully covered both in the conjunctival and corneal chapters. Openings such as 'the orbit contains globe, fat, muscles, nerves, vessels and lacrimal gland' seem superfluous. There has been little attempt to make the lists easy to remember or to use tables and diagrams to break the monotony. There are acts of omission e.g. the characteristic angiogram findings in AMPPE and occasionally the negative needs to be stressed; POHS, sandwiched as it is between candidiasis and toxoplasmosis, is a condition in which, usually, the vitreous is quiet.

Occasionally the book is somewhat dated: 'trabeculectomy is indicated where there is continuing visual field loss on *maximal* medical therapy' (? including acetazolamide). Congenital glaucoma is still divided into primary and secondary rather than the trabecular/iridotrabeular/iridocorneal dysgenesis classification from which the clinical findings and embryology can be surmised. The vertical gaze centre may not be as well understood as its horizontal partner but more is known about it than the authors let on and surely the fact that fibres subserving up-gaze cross in the posterior commissure is worth recording. MRI is not mentioned at all, not even a small exam tip on how to differentiate a T1 from a T2 weighted image.

Despite these faults this book has much to commend itself to teachers trying to refresh their memory, to clinicians in need of a list of differential diagnoses for a rare disease, as well as to those trying to avoid an embarrassing silence during a viva. In short this is 'teaching time for everyone' and the authors have every right to be 'over the moon' with the result of their considerable endeavours.

Michael Hayward

Review—Dictionary of Eye Terminology

B. Cassin, S. Solomon
Edited by M. L. Rubin

This soft pocket book contains a small but substantial dictionary of commonly—and not