

## Book Reviews

### *Ophthalmic Surgery*

Thomas D. Lindquest and Richard L. Lindstrom

This weighty loose leaf book attempts to provide a reference work for ophthalmic surgery. Although contributions come from many different authors, its consistency is maintained throughout the work by a clear and standardised method of presentation and black and white diagrams and illustrations, all by the same artist. No attempt is made to describe a comprehensive range of techniques, but rather to describe the contributing authors' favourite technique and in some cases, several alternative techniques. I did find the choice of some of the described operations somewhat surprising, for example, a rather complex technique for the treatment of involuntary ectropion, and the description of therapeutic ultrasound as one of the selected techniques of cryo destructive procedures in the treatment of glaucoma. Nevertheless, balance is provided by the interesting provision of abstracts of papers relating either to the procedure described or to alternative techniques at the end of each section. These abstracts are well chosen, of useful length, and include illustrations and tables, but I do feel that the omission of all other reference is regrettable. Space is allowed for the reader to add his own comments, and experiences, and an annual update and extension service is promised whereby the owner of the tome will be able to add updated loose leaf pages if he has paid his subscription! I did find myself reading with great interest the descriptions of operations which I do and do not perform, and there is no doubt that this book will provide useful basic instruction for those who are at an early stage of learning, and also for those who wish to refresh their memories about operations which they undertake relatively infrequently, and for those who might like to alter their techniques after consideration of alternative

and interesting modifications which are described.

There is no main index, but the grouping of the described techniques under main sections Cataract, Cornea, Glaucoma, Ocular Motility, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Retinal Surgery, does allow rapid access to an area of interest. There is particularly good coverage of the use of lasers in both the anterior and posterior segments of the eye. Future loose leaf additions will no doubt add sections on retinal detachment and vitreous surgery which are not covered at present.

This book does succeed as a useful reference book covering most aspects of ophthalmic surgery and it is to be hoped that the annual additions and modifications will further enhance what is likely to be a useful and popular surgical mentor.

Walter Rich

### *Pediatric Ophthalmology*

By David Taylor *et al.*

(Pp 734; £135.00)

Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford, 1990.

This is a monumental work. Although twelve authors are listed, two thirds of the book has been written by David Taylor or Anthony Moore.

*Pediatric Ophthalmology* is about those interesting and sometimes difficult patients who come to a children's eye clinic with something more than comitant strabismus, a sticky eye or refractive error. The authors share with us their wealth of experience of these often rare conditions and have provided extensive references. Although there is one excellent chapter on comitant strabismus and a brief discussion of amblyopia, in comparison with the exhaustive discussion of other topics, this book barely addresses itself to these subjects.

The first part of the book includes chapters on Normal Childhood Development, Oph-

thalmic Genetics and the Visually Handicapped Baby and Family. The main bulk of the book considers developmental anomalies and childhood disorders under anatomical headings. There are detailed chapters on Inherited Retinal Dystrophies, Congenital and Vascular Anomalies of the Retina and Developmental Anomalies of the Cornea and Iris. There are also excellent chapters on Craniofacial Abnormalities, Rhabdomyosarcoma, Hydrocephalus, etc as well as some wider Paediatric Ophthalmology subjects such as Neurometabolic Disease, Non-Accidental Injury, Phakomatoses, Nystagmus and Acquired Eye Movement Disorders.

There are excellent colour illustrations throughout and the references are generally outstandingly good. Some are from journals published in 1990 and with the exception of a few chapters the authors have quoted and accurately referenced all the most important and relevant papers; when discussing more obscure points they have provided original reference material thus inviting further investigation into many fascinating topics.

I was disappointed that the chapters on some of the more everyday subjects of Paediatric Ophthalmology such as Congenital Cataract, Amblyopia, Comitant Strabismus, Retinopathy of Prematurity, and Electrophysiology were so brief, but expanding the coverage of these topics would make this a different book. The titles of the Appendix chapters 'Investigation of Acquired Poor Vision in Childhood', 'Wobbly Eyes in Infancy', etc promise a treasury of clinical pearls, but in reality there is not much there in these chapters. For some readers the Appendix will probably be useful as a guide to where, with the help of the excellent index, they can seek for further information but for me the Appendix was a disappointment.

To find fault in this book is like criticising a favourite child. The chapter on Mucopolysaccharidoses is uncharacteristically stronger on practical points than theoretical discussion; a brief historical review or some account of the biochemistry of the disorders relating the site of deposition of the different mucopolysaccharides to their effects might have shed light on a confusing area. The authors appear to have omitted to mention the uni-

fying fact that the Mucopolysaccharidoses are generally autosomal recessive with the exception of Hunter's, which is X-linked recessive. In contrast, the practical advice of corneal grafting in these conditions is most helpful and obviously reflects experience from which we can all benefit.

Several other Paediatric Ophthalmology texts are available. I am not aware of any other so lavishly illustrated as this. Probably because of David Taylor's straightforward informative style which I found to be packed with useful information, I prefer this book to that by Harley which has twice as many pages. David Taylor's book has more about Medical Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic Syndromes than *The Eye in Childhood* by Morin and Crawford. While the Toronto authors have made a most important contribution by presenting data from their personal series of patients, David Taylor's *Pediatric Ophthalmology* does not provide data of this kind. Instead, David Taylor presents us with a comprehensive review of the literature.

This book is an outstanding contribution to Paediatric Ophthalmology. It should be available for reference to every Ophthalmologist and on the shelves of anyone who claims any interest in Paediatric Ophthalmology.

G. Woodruff

### *Ophthalmology Pocket Reference*

Nicholas Evans

Castle House Publications

This book aims to 'provide a concise practical guide for junior doctors in the ophthalmic unit' and is designed to be carried in the pocket for every day use. It adopts a problem orientated approach which appears to be well suited to its expected readership. The layout is clear and the style simple and unfussy. There is a comprehensive index and useful glossary of ophthalmological terms and abbreviations. There are no illustrations which is always a pity in text books about ophthalmology as the clinical aspects of the subject depend heavily on observation. However, it is usually cost constraints (dictated by the publisher) which prevent authors from using illustrations and the book is reasonably priced, in comparison with the glossy ophthalmology books, at £19.95. There are some line