

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

drawings and diagrams to supplement the text but more would have been helpful. The book is divided into fifteen chapters covering most of the basics in clinical ophthalmology including practical chapters on clinical assessment and the management of surgical in-patients which will be much appreciated by busy ophthalmic SHOs. The chapter on ocular motility and strabismus concentrates almost exclusively on paralytic squints and one has to look in the chapter on paediatrics for details of non-paralytic squints, binocular single vision and the cover test. The chapter on paediatric ophthalmology also deals with the visual assessment of children and with the child with poor vision and these aspects are useful. However, many subjects in this chapter such as electro-diagnostic tests, ultrasound, cellulitis and glaucoma are also covered elsewhere in the book whereas childhood uveitis is omitted altogether. There is only sparse coverage of cataract and the ocular effects of systemic diseases and these areas would seem to be particularly relevant to ophthalmic junior staff. Nevertheless these drawbacks are only minor and it must be said that Nicholas Evans has written a good book which will be particularly useful to new entrants to hospital ophthalmology and is to be recommended.

Robert F. Waltern

Eye Diseases in Hot Climates

By John Sandford-Smith
Second Edition

Wright: London Boston Singapore Sydney, Toronto, Wellington.

This book is written as a guide to those intending to practice ophthalmology in tropical countries—both the non-specialist already there and the specialist unfamiliar with the tropics. It succeeds on both counts and it is very pleasing to see it in its second edition. The sections on trachoma and onchocerciasis have been updated and the quality of the illustrations is excellent.

There are a few points that could be stressed—the increased safety of using a dry preparation of fluorescein rather than drops for corneal staining the advisability of giving prophylactic Vitamin A to all children with measles, the use of suturing as a safer procedure than strapping for protecting the cornea, are examples.

Nevertheless this is an extremely useful book with the added advantages of being both easy to read and easily portable and I have no hesitation in recommending it to those working in developing countries.

Marion C. Handscombe

Manual of Visual Fields

Elliott B. Werner
Churchill Livingstone

This is a concise book covering visual field assessment and diagnosis and the modern instrumentation available. The fundamentals of field technique using the Goldmann Perimeter are well discussed though much of the book relates to autoperimetry using the Octopus and Humphrey Field Analysers.

In the historical review of field testing, campimetry technique using the Bjerrum Tangent Screen is rather glossed over, even though its continuing usefulness is referred to later in the text, especially in the context of functional disease. There is passing reference only to the Tubinger instrument, and slight reference to the computer of Heijl, and the screening devices of Freidman, and Hansen, as also the computer display method of Damato.

Nevertheless the book gives an excellent description of the principles of dynamic and static field testing using threshold and suprathreshold determinants, and the handling of the physical units involved is well presented. In this respect the concept of differential retinal sensitivity and threshold are logically and carefully expounded in a clear and readable manner. The comparative methods and testing logic of the three important perimeters (Goldmann, Octopus, and Humphrey) are nicely collected here in one book which allows easy cross reference of their equivalence.

The illustrations and diagrams are all derived from clinical material and are excellent. The statistical analysis software (Octosoft, Statpac Humphrey), are well explained.

In the clinical section there are chapters on field defects with media opacities, retinal and choroidal lesions, glaucoma, optic nerve, chiasm, and retrochiasmal pathways. There are clear diagnostic criteria as well as useful hints. The pitfalls of autoperimetry are also indicated.