

Ptosis (4th Edition)

Michael Callahan and Crowell Beard.
Aescalapius Publishing.

This is definitely not a book for the occasional plastic surgeon. Shorter diagrammatic manuals of eyelid surgery are available that cover most oculo-plastic conditions very adequately.

Nevertheless, for the enthusiast, the first chapter on the history of ptosis surgery may be of interest. The anatomy, physiology and pathology chapters are at a basic level. The well-known procedures are discussed in detail and many uncommon and rarely indicated operations are described. No mention is made of botulinum toxin for the treatment of blepharospasm and the book is dismissive of the benefits of myectomy of Muller's muscle in the eyelid retraction of Graves disease.

Most ophthalmologists would find this book too detailed and not systematic enough when deciding what procedure is appropriate for which condition.

R. C. Humphry

Review: Laser. Its Clinical uses in Eye Diseases. Second Edition.

Constable. Lim.

Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh London Melbourne and New York 1990.

This is the second edition of a popular guide to laser treatment in clinical ophthalmology. The text is very easy to read and reflects the author's personal practices and the increasing number of indications for treatment of conditions affecting the posterior and anterior segments of the eye.

Following a short introductory chapter of the principles of photocoagulation, the authors concentrate mainly on the practical aspects of laser treatment. These include hints on how to deal with a small pupil, with opacities in the media and with 'different patients'. The section on diabetic retinopathy is understandably the longest one and includes excellent composites of fundus photographs which are accompanied by short and clear comments. The following chapters are on 'other vascular lesions', central serous retinopathy, subretinal neovascularisation, retinal tears, retinal detachment and tumours.

The sections on laser application in the anterior chamber and in glaucoma are succinct and richly illustrated by colour photographs.

Overall the text is highly didactic but clearly written and contains numerous practical hints and 'pearls'. There are also controversial statements which presumably reflect the authors' own clinical experience, such as the management of background and preproliferative retinopathies. Although the text is not referenced, it does contain a useful list of suggested reading.

There is no doubt that this is an extremely valuable introduction to the practice of photocoagulation and as such it should find its way onto all library shelves . . .

Z. J. Gregor

Clinical Tests of Vision

Lars Frisén

Ed. Raven Press. \$71.

This soft covered book is composed of twelve chapters followed by a series of test cases. There is a subject index and there are five hundred and seventy-eight references.

The first four chapters are concerned with vision and acuity, then one on colour vision and the remaining seven are devoted to visual field testing and defects.

The reader is taken through the applied anatomy of the visual system from the eye to the occipital cortex, as well as, the physiological functioning.

The principles of acuity testing are expounded and the limitation of the various methods considered by analysis and interpretation.

Attention is drawn to the grey area in evaluation of the range of normality and abnormality, in relation to the testing methods used.

The old question by Mary Sheridan of, 'what is being tested in the various acuity tests', is recognised and dealt with, under other resolution related tests.

The Landolt C, four optotype and preferential looking tests are discussed briefly, but there is no mention of the Sheridan-Gardiner, Kay, Stycar balls, nor other methods.

The anomalies and metamorphopsia and dysmetropsia are evaluated by acuity and

Amsler chart changes, together with dynamic methods using the Pulfrich phenomenon.

There is discussion on normal and abnormal colour vision with special reference to hue and saturation. Emphasis is placed on the panel sorting test, such as Farnsworth Munsell and Lanthony, which cover the whole spectrum of colour hues compared with pseudo isochromatic charts, which are considered more practical for simple congenital anomalies of colour.

The majority of the book is devoted to the measurement of visual fields, commencing with definitions and principles of field testing and screening.

The theory and practice of kinetic and static perimetry are well documented and much use is made of the Traquair island of vision for illustrative recording of abnormal results.

The idiosyncracies of both patient and observer are discussed in relation to the testing conditions, and the range of hand and automatic hemispherical bowl are compared, as well as the use of the tangent screen for central defects.

Attention is concentrated on the defects of the visual pathway only, and not on adjacent pathology.

Representation in the various parts of the visual pathway and the types of associated field defect are explained with one chapter for the eye and another for the pathways.

In these the patho physiology is considered, followed by a short description of the various conditions from trauma, inflammation, toxic degenerative to tumour, which may be the causal pathology.

This book is an excellent introduction to the problems of visual testing and the possible pitfalls and limitations.

The author stresses that the emphasis is laid on clinical presentaion in all its aspects and paints the picture of current attitudes and methods.

This is a useful addition for the Unit library where juniors wish to obtain some background knowledge before expanding their neuro ophthalmic experience.

G. V. Catford