

readership of anyone with more than a passing interest in corneal surgery.

P. A. Hunter

***Optics and Refraction: A User Friendly Guide***

S. M. Podos and M. Yanoff

Gower Medical Publishing, New York, 1991.

This book is entitled 'a user friendly guide'. It is certainly the most readable book on optics that I have ever come across as it is unusually presented with many diagrams and interesting illustrations and the reader is continually tempted to turn the page to see what comes next.

The subject matter is covered in some depth and there are interesting paragraphs on current issues such as the problems experienced by VDU users and whether it is harmful to wear dark glasses. Also there is a whole chapter on corneal refractive surgery. This book is going to be enjoyed particularly by readers who are already familiar with the basics of optics and refraction and who wish to enhance their knowledge of details such as lens tints, contact lens optics and contrast sensitivity which tend not to be well covered in more basic texts. It is a little too deep for use as a starter text-book for the trainee with no knowledge of optics, as the basic physical optics of reflection and refraction by mirrors, lenses and prisms is assumed and not covered.

This is definitely a book for the library and one which is almost bed-time reading because of the 'user friendly' presentation.

H. Frank

***Manual of Ocular Diagnosis and Therapy, 3rd edn***

D. Pavan-Langston

Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1991.

The third edition of this manual has been extensively revised to accommodate new developments in diagnosis and drug therapy. Its stated aim is to provide a practical book on ocular diagnosis and therapy for both junior and senior ophthalmologists.

The book has the advantage that its chapters are written by different authors with expertise in that particular field. They are generally up to date, concise and accurate and contain a commendable level of detail for such a small volume. The chapters on cornea and external disease and paediatric ophthalmology are particularly good and cover a number of areas which are often omitted in much larger texts.

This manual will have wide appeal to all ophthalmologists. For those who are just embarking upon the specialty it contains a large amount of useful information on examination techniques and differential diagnosis of both common and rare ocular disorders. For the more experienced ophthalmologist it constitutes an extremely up to date and comprehensive reference source for all ocular medications. It is particularly strong on dosages of topical systemic and intraocular antibiotics which are often difficult to locate, particularly when they are needed most!

A. K. Bates