
BOOK REVIEWS

Environmental Vision: Interactions of the Eye, Vision and the Environment

D. G. Pitts and R. N. Kleinstein
Butterworth-Heinemann, Boston, 1993.

This book is written largely for optometrists, by optometrists. It has several contributors apart from the two principal authors. It has seventeen chapters divided into four sections. The first section addresses vision and the environment; it is largely devoted to occupational optometry. At times, this seems to overlap the role of the occupational physician. It does, however, have valuable material on eye protection, the work and other environments in relation to the eye and surveillance in relation to eye hazards, both at work and in sport. It has a useful section on protective equipment for the eye and industrial hygiene in relation to eye care. This section also has a chapter on standards, including the American, the ISO and to some extent the European Standards. There are rather extensive lists of protocols for surveillance, screening, etc., and these would be appropriate to those who like lists to plan their work.

Section II is on radiation, lighting and vision. The physical optics in this section were an excellent exposition of the subject with considerable clarity of the many units of measurements involved in optics. Many of the physical principles were very clearly laid out and this section would be particularly valuable for anyone who needed access to the principles of radiation, vision and lighting. The topics of luminance, discomfort glare, and veiling glare as well as contrast were extremely well laid out with a quite adequate number of diagrams and some theorems.

There is some overlap into Section III, with ocular protection against optical radiation hazards. This section is equally well laid out and has a clear exposition of hazards and protection for all forms of optical and other radiation. There are references to regulatory standards and the book adopts a very common-sense and practical approach to those, including regulations for hazard protection and many industrial processes, and to visual problems associated with visual display units. The ergonomics of these units is well discussed and the role of colour and colour contrast in the work and other environments is also well covered.

In Chapter 14 there is an excellent discussion of vision and driving, though not all of the conclusions would be applicable or acceptable to the European scene.

Section IV deals with special problems and solutions in environmental vision, and has some recapitulation on optical protection for industrial processors as well as an interesting chapter (17) on ocular toxicology.

The style of the book is fairly readable. The centre portion on the physical optical standards is very clear and is a useful reference. It is interesting that ophthalmology as such is sparsely mentioned in this book. References are copious.

This book will be of some interest to ophthalmologists who are interested in work in occupational vision and ophthalmology, though I believe the centre pages on ophthalmic standards and principles of optics and lighting will be the most valuable part to ophthalmologists as a reference work.

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Atlas of Craniomaxillofacial Fixation Syndromes

R. M. Kellman and L. J. Marentette
Raven Press, New York, 1994.

This atlas was compiled to provide an illustrated volume describing rigid fixation of the facial skeleton for maxillofacial surgeons. It claims to be aimed not only at the more experienced surgeons looking for the options available in treating a certain fracture but also at the novice who is learning from scratch. A chapter on the principles behind the techniques is included for the benefit of the latter, and I personally found it informative.

The book is divided into nine units – each containing several chapters – starting with basic science (metallurgy, instrumentation, implants) and basic biomechanics through to more detailed treatment of mandible and mid/upper face/skull fractures, including photographs of instruments available for this. Unlike anatomy and ‘homme écorché’ books, where appropriate the drawings usefully show the patient in the surgical position, i.e. how the surgeon would view them during an operation: many of these are therefore laid horizontally or upside down from a pure anatomical point of view.

If the novice were to be seriously catered for then