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## BOOK REVIEWS

### *Outline of Ophthalmology*

R. Coakes and P. Holmes Sellors  
Butterworth-Heinemann, London, 1995

This is the second edition of the original which was first published in 1985 by J. Wright and Sons. The excellent layout and format remain largely unchanged. The first part deals with the differential diagnosis of common symptoms which present to the clinician, namely loss of vision, ocular discomfort, abnormal ocular appearances and motility problems, while the second part deals with the eye in systemic disease. There has been an addition of a chapter on structure, function and development which is fully justified as it makes understanding of disease processes so much easier for the beginner. The anatomy of the eye is illustrated with line diagrams which are simple but easy to understand.

The second chapter takes the reader on a step-by-step approach to successful clinical examination of ocular signs by both specialist and non-specialist clinicians using simple diagnostic tools such as a torch and direct ophthalmoscope. In the subsequent chapters, these signs are now illustrated in colour, which makes is marked improvement on the previous edition where they were in black and white. In addition, arrows have been superimposed onto the colour slides to point out subtle signs such as collateral vessels at the disc and small dendritic ulcers. Short but succinct text set alongside the illustrations throughout the book provides a thorough outline of ocular disorders commonly encountered in ophthalmic clinics. The final part of the book gives an overview of the diagnostic tests, operations and optical aids, providing an extremely useful and rapid reference for medical students and non-ophthalmic clinicians who are unsure of the ophthalmic jargon. There is also a chapter on ocular pharmacology which gives succinct information on uses of drugs and their side-effects. This is useful to clinicians and general practitioners who prescribe topical medications on an infrequent basis.

Overall this is an excellent ophthalmic text for both medical students and general practitioners, giving a thorough overview of commonly encountered ocular disorders. The colour photographs with arrows pointing out subtle lesions of note are very helpful to the novice while the layout provides quick reference for the busy clinician who needs to make an accurate diagnosis.

B. Hoh

### *Retinal Detachment, Second Edition*

J. J. Kanski and Z. J. Gregor  
Butterworth-Heinemann, London, 1995

This book aims to give junior ophthalmologists an overview of retinal detachment and after 9 years it goes into its second edition. It has been extensively revised to cover recent advances in vitreoretinal surgery and incorporates an additional author, Zdenek Gregor.

The initial chapters guide the reader through examination techniques, pathogenesis, clinical features and prophylaxis of rhegmatogenous retinal detachment. Examination techniques, and what you should see, are well illustrated and described: this section should be read by all those putting on an indirect ophthalmoscope for the first time. Thereafter preoperative considerations, principles and techniques of standard external retinal surgery are also well described in a very practical way, providing a lucid approach in an area of ophthalmic surgery in which many junior ophthalmologists may feel in the dark.

Three new chapters describe the principles, techniques and complications of vitrectomy for retinal detachment. This gives a useful introduction to such techniques, rather than being a comprehensive guide, and helps complete the overall picture of retinal detachment surgery. The book is well illustrated by photographs and excellent Tarrant pictures. Many figures are new but I had reservations about a few of the photographs surviving from the first edition (particularly showing placement of a rather bulky and posterior circumferential sponge): it is a shame that these were not also replaced.

In summary this is a concise, well illustrated and practical guide which is easy to read (in a couple of evenings) and will give the junior ophthalmologist a good understanding of the diagnosis and management of retinal detachment. This new edition should certainly be on the shelves of your departmental library.

S. J. Charles

### *ABC of Eyes, Second Edition*

P. T. Khaw and A. R. Elkington  
BMJ Publishing, London, 1994

This is an excellent book: clear, concise, well illustrated. The fact that the first edition went to eight impressions illustrates its popularity and use. Aimed at GPs, non-specialist accident and emer-