
BOOK REVIEWS

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

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

This 420-page book is written primarily as a text book for students of optometry. Its main concerns are eye protection, and the optimising of visual performance, in any environment – domestic, occupational or recreational. It encompasses occupational health, radiation and lighting, and protection against optical radiation, as well as specific areas such as driving, welding, or VDU use.

The text, which is somewhat ponderous in style, is supported by numerous tables and line diagrams, and brings together a great deal of information that is not easily located elsewhere. It is likely to be useful to its target audience – optometrists – especially those practising in the United States. However, while many aspects are of interest to the general ophthalmologist, this is not a book that he or she will often require in clinical practice.

J. D. A. MacLeod

Atlas of Fluorescein Angiography

B. A. Harney, J. V. F. Hart and R. H. B. Grey
Times Mirror International Publishers, 1994

Thirty years ago fluorescein angiography opened the door to the clinical interpretation and treatment of retinal and choroidal disease. Now, as the authors of this well-produced new atlas rightly point out, the test is no longer necessary in many diagnostic circumstances. However, there are still new things to be learnt from an investigation that has hardly needed modification over the last three decades; and a basic understanding of its principles, and the information that can be derived from it, is essential for ophthalmologists in training.

Much can be learnt from the balanced and uncontroversial approach to fluorescein analysis provided by this atlas. The text makes easy reading and is augmented by appropriate key references. The authors have concentrated on the conditions seen in routine medical retinal practice, and they have rightly avoided giving too much space to rarities, although a future edition will need to expand more on new techniques such as ICG angiography. Where therapy is mentioned, it is discussed objectively with a refreshingly conservative approach.

All in all, this fluorescein atlas is informative and instructive, and stands up well in comparison with others in the field. As such it can be warmly recommended.

T. J. ffytche

Anterior Segment Complications of Contact Lens Wear

Edited by Joel A. Silbert
Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1993

This is a large multi-author text book aimed at providing the clinician with both a problem-solving approach and a reference text in dealing with not only contact lens related pathology but also anterior segment disease in general. The majority of contributors are United States optometrists with wide experience in their fields, and this is reflected in both the style and the content of the text. Three of the thirty-five contributors are ophthalmologists.

The text is divided into nine major sections encompassing physiological complications of contact lens wear, inflammation, toxicity and allergy, lids and adenexa, the dry eye, infection, extended wear complications, irregular astigmatism, and therapeutic use of contact lenses. There is also a section on the medicolegal complications of contact lens wear which, although predominantly of interest to US practitioners, is becoming more relevant to UK practice with the recent introduction of voluntary informed consent prior to contact lens fitting.

Each section gives an extremely well referenced résumé of relevant anatomy, physiology, histopathology and epidemiology, and useful investigations which are clearly explained and well illustrated. In fact, in many sections contact lens considerations take a back seat to the discussion and treatment of anterior segment disease with conditions such as meibomian gland dysfunction, dermatological disease, lid disorders and lid surgery being covered in separate sections. Each section also includes a case report to illustrate the conditions discussed.

Thankfully, the discussion of contact lens optics is kept to a minimum, with the emphasis on pathology. However, there are some areas of overlap which is inevitable in this type of multi-author text. For example, tear film anomalies, keratoconjunctivitis sicca and ocular surface disease are all covered in separate sections, but there is a good index to allow for this. The colour plates are grouped together in the front of the text and are of a high standard. However, they are not easily cross referenced with the relevant text.

In summary, this text book should be of interest both to clinicians with contact lens experience wishing to extend their knowledge of external disease and vice versa.

Lalitha Moodaley