

**A Textbook of Clinical Ophthalmology, 2nd edition**

Ronald Pitts Crick and Peng Tee Khaw  
World Scientific, 1997  
ISBN 981-02-2262-9 (hardback),  
981-02-2373-0 (paperback)

This is a very nice little textbook which is small enough to fit easily into a briefcase. While not attempting to be fully comprehensive, it does cover all aspects of ophthalmology with particular attention to the most common problems seen in practice and also gives a flavour of some of the rarer conditions. It discusses the different means by which the eyes are examined and explains in simple terms how the commoner instruments work. It is well illustrated not only with colour and black and white plates but also with a series of very good simple line drawings which show clearly the principles of common surgical procedures. Its sections on basic sciences relating to the eye and on optics and refraction will appeal to undergraduates and trainee ophthalmologists, but the most useful section is probably the one dealing with common ophthalmological problems because it is set out by symptoms rather than systems. It has good practical details about management which I think will be helpful to GPs and casualty officers, but the disadvantage of this approach is that some of the same information is then duplicated in the later sections of the book which makes the search for information a bit disjointed. In summary I think that this book makes a very good attempt to cover ophthalmology for the uninitiated and because of its size it should appeal to a wide audience.

*Zanna Currie*

**The Eye in Contact Lens Wear, 2nd edition**

Edited by J.R. Larke  
Butterworth-Heinemann, 1997

This book remains the most fundamental description of the anatomy and physiology of the eye, and the ocular response to contact lens wear, that is available from one source. It has been substantially rewritten by John Larke to reflect the changes in concepts that have taken place since the first edition was published twelve years ago. Three good new chapters, covering areas in which there has been rapid development, have been contributed by experts in their fields. These are those on

contact lens deposits by Professor Brian Tighe, the control of corneal hydration by Professor Stuart Hodson, and corneal infection by John Dart and Fiona Stapleton.

The book has been organised on an anatomical basis with chapters on the lids, conjunctiva, limbus and cornea. Descriptions of the normal anatomy and physiology of these tissues are followed by a discussion of the effect of contact lens wear on them and the interactions that result in lens-related disease. These areas are covered concisely but in depth by the authors. Although the book was not intended as a comprehensive account of the anatomy and physiology of the ocular surface and cornea it provides a thorough synopsis of these. References are provided to varying degrees in each chapter but, in general, a systematic review of the literature is not provided.

This edition follows the philosophy of the first in providing an understanding of the principles that are required to achieve a fundamental understanding of the problems and complications arising in contact lens practice. As such this is not an easy book to read. It does not contain the flow charts for diagnosis, or recipes for dealing with problems and complications, that are available in many texts on contact lens practice. However, unlike other textbooks it does provide a succinct understanding of the physiology and anatomy of the eye, and its alteration in response to lens wear, that is needed when the cookbook approach fails. As such it deserves to retain a place on the shelf of the experienced contact lens practitioner and educator.

*John K.G. Dart*

**Corneal Physiology and Disposable Contact Lenses**

H. Hamano, E. Kaufman  
Butterworth-Heinemann, 1997  
ISBN 0-7506-9927-2

This is a multi-author collection of chapters, some of which came as a surprise to the reviewer. I had assumed from the title that the book would be about the effects of disposable contact lenses upon corneal physiology. No such thing. Half the book is devoted to the fundamentals of corneal anatomy and physiology, the other to contact lenses.

The chapter on the Functional Anatomy of the Cornea contains nothing that is new or not obtainable in other more general text books. The most recent reference is 1992 and only one other is cited from this decade.

Chapter 2 on Oxygen Permeability of Contact Lenses and Corneal Physiology has only two references from the 1990s. The paper from 1995 quoted in the text does not appear in the reference list. The discussion of bleb formation and corneal swelling is of interest.

Chapter 3, Tear Film and Contact Lens Wear, contains a series of colour plates of specular microscope images. It is a pity that all of them are unlabelled and only a few have a magnification scale. Sadly this chapter also contains nothing new and reiterates all the common speculations about tear film break-up and wettability of contact lenses without attempting to provide any experimental evidence.

Chapter 4 on Corneal Topography contains a lot about measuring corneal topography with expensive apparatus but very little about contact lenses – written, I assume, in the hope that one day elaborate keratometry will replace experience as the guide to fitting contact lenses.

This is a strange selection of chapters to bunch under the title Fundamentals of Corneal Anatomy and Physiology. Really there is rather more relevant information to consider than the material presented.

Part II is titled Contact Lenses. This part starts with a long but interesting review of the Development of Contact Lenses. This chapter is remarkable by having a 1997 reference in the text, but omits to include it in the reference list.

Chapter 6, Extended-Wear Contact Lenses, is a splendid revision of these lenses and what is known of their effects upon the cornea, and is an excellent introduction to the field. It remains to be seen whether the predicted benefits of increasing oxygen transmissibility of future lenses will fulfil the authors' expectations.

Chapter 7, Disposable Contact Lenses, is nearly all old information readily available from other sources, and repeats much from Chapter 5.

Chapter 8, Safety of Daily-Disposable Contact Lenses, contains much from the *CLAO Journal* of 1994. It contains a useful diagram that could be adapted in practice to classify the corneal findings associated with contact lens wear.

Chapter 9, Ocular Surface Immune Reactions and Contact Lens Wear, has only two references from the 1990s and the more recent of these is 1993. It contains nothing that is not common knowledge amongst contact lens practitioners.

Chapter 10, Keratitis and Contact Lenses, is a brief but useful overview of the present thoughts and state of the art in the field of disposable lenses. Its critical and economical style makes it a pleasure to read. I am suspicious that Figure 10.2 is of a corneal nerve and not *Aspergillus fumigatus*. The chapter ends with the not surprising conclusion that daily-disposable contact lenses when worn as prescribed are safest.

I was left wondering why this book was assembled, what it was intended to do and for what audience.

P.N. Dilly

### The Eye in General Practice

R.D. Finlay and P.A.G. Payne  
Heinemann, 1997

An interesting little book this, with much to commend it to the doctor who wishes to have a quick and comprehensive overview of common ocular problems, particularly if there is little desire to know what the specialist might do to treat a particular condition. I think it might be an excellent primer for a student or a very good basic background text for a GP registrar. Unfortunately I do not think it begins in

any way to live up to its title. I think more appropriately termed 'Ophthalmic Problems for the Uninitiated' it would do very well.

Sadly the book starts badly, suggesting as it does that an essential tool for the examination of the eye in general practice is a slit lamp. I performed a straw poll of a number of GP colleagues and was able to ascertain that, although many actually knew that a slit lamp was a tool used by an ophthalmologist, none could with any certainty identify where they would expect to find the on/off switch. Not surprisingly I was also unable to find a GP who owned a slit lamp. We really can do without books for general practice which clearly demonstrate such a lack of understanding of the role of the GP in managing ophthalmic conditions.

General practitioners, on the other hand, have a very different agenda in their management of eye disorders in their patients. Put simply they require to know what they may safely diagnose and treat and what they must refer and what they must not attempt to treat. All the information required to perform these functions is, I am sure, available within the pages of this book, it is just that, organised as it is, the material is inaccessible to the GP rapidly.

An example of this is the series of tables which appears in Chapter 2. Table 2.1 is titled 'The Acute Red Eye' and contains a series of causes of the acute red eye with a clinical description

followed by a treatment. Four of the conditions described have a suggested treatment of 'refer'. Surely a more appropriate vade-mecum of GP ophthalmological problems would use a decision tree such as that in Fig. 1 to inform the GP of appropriate diagnosis and/or disposal.

Thus this very good little book could be excellent if its content were re-organised to be useful to its target audience. I think that a small primer which gave a sufficiently easy to use series of diagnostic algorithms would rapidly gain acceptance as a GP standard text – a position which I fear this book is not destined to occupy.

John Poyser

### Ophthalmology – Colour Guide, 2nd edition

Jack J. Kanski  
Churchill Livingstone, 1997

### Pocket Book of Ophthalmology

Philip I. Murray and Alistair R. Fielder  
Butterworth-Heinemann, 1997

'... vether it's worth while goin' through so much to learn so little, as the charity boy said ven he got to the end of the alphabet, is a matter of taste', said Mr Weller in *Pickwick Papers*. For those without the time or money to invest in the third edition of *Clinical Ophthalmology*, JJK's *Colour Guide* is the 'charity boy' edition.

It would be a breach of hippocratic dogma for any British-trained ophthalmologist of my generation to have anything negative to say about any book by JJK. This volume is a pocket-sized and slimline condensation of the great tome on which we were all raised. It contains many of the same beautiful illustrations with a pithy bullet-form commentary accompanying. The quality of the illustrations is uniformly excellent (e.g. Vogt's striae on p. 38). It will, no doubt, be popular among medical students and brand-new SHOs, for whom the visual impact and verbal brevity will be very appealing, but it has little to offer anyone who will have to invest in the larger volume for their future training.

Aimed at much the same audience, Murray and Fielder's book is the same size and has not one photograph in it, which will make it hard to sell. It is a book of lists, despite the disclaimer in the introduction. It is likely to be perceived as too specialist by the generalist (who wants to see pictures) and inadequate by the specialist trainee (who will have invested in a well-known and more encyclopaedic book of ophthalmic lists – also without pictures). It is not consistent in the level and pitch of the script, in which it is felt necessary to explain the word 'stye' ('infection of eye lash root') but leaves 'oscillopsia'

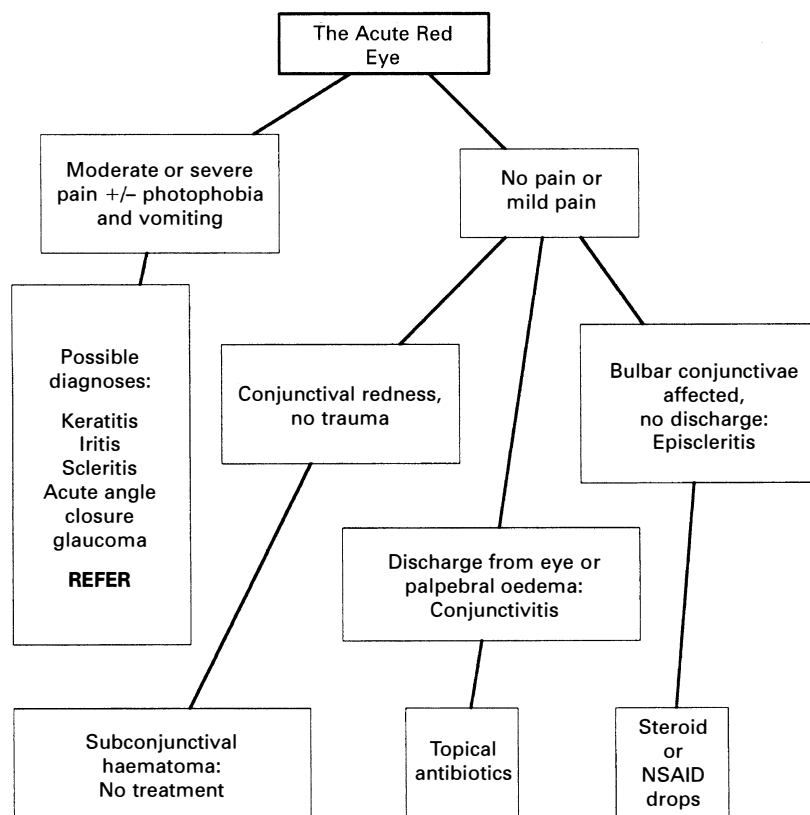


Fig. 1.