

Manual of Oculoplastic Surgery, 2nd edition

Mark R. Levine
Heinemann, Oxford, 1996, £52.50,
ISBN 0 7506 9634 6

This comprehensive text is contributed to by an impressive roll of mainly US experts, and as such offers an up-to-date manual of oculoplastic surgery. In spite of the wide range of authors, however, taut editing has avoided significant overlap, and the format of goals and principles of surgery, followed by technique and post-operative management and management of complications is fairly well adhered to throughout.

It is well illustrated, and although the half-tone diagrams are not quite as clear as pure line diagrams, they complement the text to provide a genuine 'manual' for surgery. The layout of the book is good, and the index comprehensive. I always prefer a list of suggested reading to formal references in this format of book, and this is well provided, but not surprisingly is generally biased towards publications from the USA.

In some respects the wide range of topics exposes some weaknesses of the book, in that some areas are not covered in any significant detail (e.g. treatment of blepharospasm), but such superficiality is generally over subjects not covered at all in most texts on oculoplastic surgery. On the other hand the extension into fields somewhat beyond the standard range of practice of most ophthalmic surgeons (e.g. the management of fracture of the zygoma) is welcome and useful information.

The preface to the book states that a knowledge of the diagnosis, medical treatment and indications for surgery are assumed. Although this is a sensible avoidance of filling the book with often-repeated mantras, some of the chapters would benefit from further discussion of the indications for a particular surgical approach, with the chapters on orbital surgery being particular cases in point. Overall, however, the section on orbital surgery is one of the best. It covers enucleation, evisceration and exenteration, as well as socket reconstruction, apart from three separate chapters describing different approaches to the orbit, including decompression surgery.

The book provides sensible contemporary opinion by world experts, but surprisingly does not cover some of the latest developments in oculoplastic

surgery, and in particular avoids any mention of endoscopic surgery, e.g. in treatment of nasolacrimal obstruction.

The above minor criticisms apart, the book is excellent. Its major strength lies in providing the bench manual it claims to be in a very readable style, such that it is most enjoyable and informative to read, with clear, practical advice. It is relevant both to the practitioner with an interest in oculoplastic surgery and to the general ophthalmologist alike. The first edition of this book was excellent, but this is better, and thoroughly recommended both for the individual and ophthalmic department library.

Mark T. Watts

Surgery for Retinal and Vitreous Disease

John D. Scott
Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford, 1998,
£150.00, ISBN 0 7506 3824 9

This is an excellent book and an asset to anyone with an interest in the field of vitreoretinal surgery. The book is well written with good illustrations. The author is one of the most experienced vitreoretinal surgeons in the country and has an international reputation. His clear thinking and vast experience come over to the reader.

The book provides an overview of nearly every aspect of vitreoretinal surgery. The first four chapters discuss the pathogenesis of retinal breaks. The next three chapters discuss presentation, assessment and management preoperatively. Chapter 8 goes through basic techniques for primary detachment repairs with discussion of Mr Scott's own choices and the reasons behind them, along with other available techniques. Chapters 10 to 16 deal with the principles of management of the various forms of retinal detachment. The next few chapters deal with some of the rarer and more complex situations such as giant oral breaks. The book then goes on to complex vitreoretinal procedures in diabetics, trauma and retinopathy of prematurity. The last chapters deal with complications of surgery, protocols for prevention, recovery of vision and dealing with the patient as a whole. There is discussion of management of the common and uncommon conditions that present themselves to the retinal surgeon. The book is punctuated with case histories to illustrate differences in

management and expressions of pathology. The clinical pictures are superb and the illustrations excellent.

This book will I am sure become an essential companion to anyone considering a career in vitreoretinal surgery, but would also be interesting and useful to the established vitreoretinal surgeon. I have thoroughly enjoyed this book and have placed my order for it already.

S. Winder
Royal Hallamshire Hospital
Sheffield, UK

Churchill's Mastery of Medicine – Surgery 2

A core text with self-assessment covering orthopaedics, ear, nose and throat surgery and ophthalmology

Edited by John A. Dent
Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1997,
£15.00, ISBN 0 443 05171 2

This new text covering the specialties of orthopaedics, ENT and ophthalmology provides a brief overview of these subjects aimed at medical students revising for MBChB exams. It aims to provide only essential information with self-assessment exercises at the end of each chapter including true/false short answer, essay, case history and viva style questions. The introduction gives advice concerning revision techniques and the approach to sitting the various types of examinations now faced by undergraduate medical students.

The style is readable with sensibly organised sections covering clinical examination techniques and disease processes divided up anatomically. Unfortunately the attractive presentation is let down by black and white illustrations which are particularly inadequate (and in places incorrect) in the ophthalmology section. In a subject which is so visual, colour illustrations are vital, particularly as the exposure of undergraduate medical students to clinical ophthalmology is likely to decrease with changes in UK medical curricula.

In the ophthalmology section there are a few important omissions in the differential diagnoses but overall it provides a fair introduction to ophthalmology for the undergraduate.

In all, *Surgery 2* is a useful text for the student revising orthopaedics, ENT or ophthalmology, mainly by dint of the self-assessment sections on each subject. However, as a stand-alone text for