

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.

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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

learning ophthalmology the poor illustrations and omissions from the text make it inadequate, and students would be better served reading one of the several other short textbooks of ophthalmology with a more complete coverage of the subject and superior colour plates.

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Dictionary of Optometry and Visual Science, 4th edition

Michel Millodot
Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford, 1997,
£30.00, ISBN 0 7506 3145 7

As a book well known and widely used by the optometry profession in various parts of the world, Professor Millodot's *Dictionary of Optometry* has become a source of reference for both students and practising optometrists alike. Its present incarnation is not simply a revised version of the old books, but includes entire topics that were not covered in earlier editions. In this, the most recent edition, it concentrates on careful definition of the clinical terms involved in practice, and in contrast to previous editions it also attempts to give the user an overview of the fundamental scientific theories behind these. Hence the dictionary has increased in size dramatically to include this new material, accompanied by an amendment to the title.

With more than 3800 terms and definitions, the book contains references from a broad spectrum of specialties: optometry, including most aspects theoretical and clinical; orthoptics, the terms included allowing the reader an insight into the assessment and treatment of binocular vision and its abnormalities; ophthalmology, including ocular disease and systemic diseases affecting the eye; and other disciplines studied by all such as ocular anatomy, physiology and non-clinical visual science.

Along with this increase in content comes a change in the format of the book, with the inclusion of numerous diagrams and significantly more tables to help the reader find the required information as quickly as possible. There is also extensive cross-referencing, allowing the user to visit other relevant

terms and references if more information is needed. A comprehensive list of abbreviations and symbols used in all the aspects of vision science referenced in this book is also given in table form.

One of the less good aspects of this book, which has been pointed out as a flaw in previous editions, is the way some of the conditions are listed. In most circumstances the term is catalogued under the noun. For example Graves' disease is referenced under disease, not Graves'. Unfortunately, this is slightly confusing and the problem is compounded by the rule being applied inconsistently. Even though this is explained in the dictionary's directions it is something that I feel needs to be altered to allow more efficient use.

The fourth edition of this dictionary is now a much more comprehensive text, with the inclusion of various aspects of clinical diagnosis and management, and theoretical vision research. It is cheap and relatively easy to use, but does this make it more accessible to other professionals interested in vision and the eye? The dictionary is primarily a source of reference for optometry students and to a lesser extent practising optometrists. With the inclusion of more terms it has become a more useful reference guide to students from other related areas, such as ophthalmologists and orthoptists, especially those who are preparing for their optics and refraction modules. It will also be a great resource for other allied professionals researching in biomedical science and visual psychophysics. Its utilisation, in conjunction with other core texts, will help the user to find out as quickly and easily as possible the required information.

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Revision in Optics and Refraction

Wai-Ching Leung,
Arnold, London, 1996, £14.99,
0 340 64613 6

There is a distinct shortage of books aimed at the Optics and Refraction module of the FRCOphth. Like many revision books, this text will help candidates in their preparation for the

examination and does not claim to be a comprehensive source. The book starts with a brief, common sense section on 'teach yourself' refraction, with hints on how to approach the examination. One obvious point I would stress is that many candidates are helped by attending a refresher course on refraction, as it is easy to pick up bad habits by observation alone. The bulk of the book consists of four Tests of 60 MCQs, followed by answers and brief explanations. The format allows the reader to perform one Test, and review their performance before trying for an improved mark in the next Test!

On a more critical note, some of the statements in the first section of the book are misleading, the four Tests are fairly similar, with some repetition, and a few of the answers are either incorrect or ambiguous. For example, the duochrome test is described wrongly, and the explanations of the block and fan, and binocular balancing techniques left much to be desired. In Test 2, the answer to question 1 incorrectly states that a spectrum is not produced when white light passes through a lens, and question 20B is True (not False). The term 'circle of least diffusion' is used throughout, instead of 'circle of least confusion' and some of the explanations given are a little unclear. Such incidences detract slightly from the value of the book. However, in defence of the author, writing 240 MCQs based on the syllabus of the Optics and Refraction module must have been a truly daunting task, and one or two ambiguous questions might actually appear in a real examination. I was reminded that a problem for good candidates in some multiple choice examinations is one of trying to give the answer that the examiner expects, rather than the definitively correct answer.

The syllabus and format of the FRCOphth examination have both been modified since this book was written, but although it is already slightly out of date the book represents good value for money. If sitting the examination, I would certainly be unable to resist buying it, and if used in addition to other texts *Revision in Optics and Refraction* will be helpful to many.

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