

Clinical Ophthalmology, 4th edition

Jack J. Kanski
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edition)

Clinical Ophthalmology has been *the* book for basic training in this country since its early editions. Its popularity and widespread use say far more for it than can any review. In my view the fourth edition means that it will undoubtedly retain its best-seller status, both as an introduction to the speciality and as a reference.

The book's concise and well-ordered text, with sections on anatomy, physiology, clinical evaluation and tests as well as pathology are what has

always made it so popular. This has obviously been updated, with slight change in order. Needless to say the most noticeable changes are in surgical technique and investigations, with much on clinical disease changing little. Finding gaps in the book's basic coverage remains difficult. The inclusion of a chapter on ocular trauma is useful, although much of its contents were found in individual chapters in previous editions.

The book has increased in size by about 150 pages, one of the reasons for which is the many new colour photographs. Most of the classic pictures that will be remembered by all of us through our careers are still there but the many new quality photographs can only be welcome. They complement the text

well, leaving little that is described not illustrated. Another institution, the Tarrant drawings with their characteristic signature, also continue, remaining excellent.

The exclusion of references because of lack of space was lamented by Kanski many editions ago. Their continued omission is understandable but does serve to remind us that the book can only be an initial reference. That being said it is hard to criticise this book.

Kanski describes in the foreword his continued aim to make it an introduction for trainees and a reference for the more experienced, and there is little doubt that it will.

Matthew Edwards