## Differential Diagnosis in Ophthalmology

S. Vernon Manson Publishing, London, 2000, £19.95, ISBN 1 874545 90 1

Differential Diagnosis in Ophthalmology is a well written and illustrated book providing a good overview of different ocular conditions. It is intended for those working in busy clinics and casualty departments, optometrists and medical students, and aims to provide a means of reaching a fast and accurate differential diagnosis of disorders of the

visual system, based on a patient's history and detailed examination. It fulfils this aim very well.

The book consists of ten chapters. It starts with a brief description of essential anatomy, covers examination of the visual system, takes the reader through examination of a child with suspected visual loss, diagnosis of a case of chronic and then acute visual loss, and ends with topics about ocular trauma and ophthalmology throughout the world. Each of these topics is well presented and illustrated. The approach is logical and makes reaching a plausible

diagnosis easy. Use of the terms 'common', 'uncommon' and 'rare' also helps the reader prioritise his or her diagnosis. All the illustrated conditions are typed in italics, which makes spotting them easy.

In brief, this book provides a well written and illustrated account of a range of ocular conditions and will surely find a place in casualty departments and in the pockets of medical students and housemen.

Pankaj Puri Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, UK