

BOOK REVIEWS

Diseases of the Fundus Oculi, by Arnold Sorsby, Butterworth & Co. (U.S.A.), Boston 1975. 232 pp. Illus. Cloth, \$37.95 (U.S.)

From the title one might expect to find another atlas of fundus disorders but those seeking such will be disappointed. Instead this book contains a wealth of well organized and precise information. It is divided into five sections including an introductory chapter devoted to ophthalmoscopically visible reactions, without a single illustration. This reliance upon direct ophthalmoscopic appearances persists throughout the text with only minimal reference to indirect ophthalmoscopy, fluorescein angiography, ERG, EOG, modern field techniques, dark adaptometry, colour perception and other current clinical techniques for the evaluation of retinal and choroidal integrity.

The déjà vu of the second section, on developmental anomalies, is striking to those familiar with Professor Sorsby's earlier text, "Ophthalmic Genetics"; much of the material, including diagrams, figures and captions, is identical. However, it is based on the years of clinical and research experience of this eminent authority on ophthalmic genetics and his many co-workers (including a number of optometric educators) and bears repetition.

The third section concentrates on acquired affections limited to the fundus such as trauma, neoplasia, detachments and senile changes while the fourth section covers fundus changes of systemic origin. In the final section, the optic nerve is considered briefly without reference to recent concepts of optic nerve angioarchitecture, haemodynamics or axoplasmic transport.

Fundus drawings and paintings are provided rather than fundus photographs and the few colour photographs included at the end of the book are either illustrating "The Hammersmith Standards" for diabetic retinopathy or have not been enlarged from their original 35 mm

format. The quality of the few histological plates is poor and no ultrastructure is included. Some of the generic terminology may mystify more recent graduates who have been subjected to the regrettable resurgence of ophthalmic eponyms. Opinions expressed by the author relative to the treatment of diabetic retinopathy and retinal detachment and the use of photocoagulation will draw disagreement from most retinal specialists.

Unfortunately, the extensive list of references, so valuable in Professor Sorsby's earlier books, has been omitted. A couple of incursions on the index ("glaucoma" and "telangiectasis") revealed that it was not reliable, an obstruction which can be negotiated with little difficulty by those familiar with the style of presentation.

The strength of this publication is in the area of hereditary disorders of the retina and choroid. I would not recommend it for those optometrists whose libraries already contain "Ophthalmic Genetics."

Anthony P. Cullen, M.Sc., O.D.

Optics in Vision. Henri Obstfeld, Butterworth's 1978, 327 pp. \$24.95 U.S.

The interest in basic optics in the practice of optometry has declined considerably in recent years to a deplorable level. It is important to be concerned with biological, physiological, neurological, pharmaceutical and psychological aspects of optometrical practice, but practitioners and students tend to forget that the ocular system is based essentially on physical optics. Without the optics part, there would be no concern with the system at all. Further, optometry's basic concern is to provide not only a triage system of visual care for detection and referral of abnormalities, but to provide important over-all care for the visual system in particular. The vast majority of our patients, perhaps as high as 95%, require only optical care. To spend (waste?) so much time energy, and concern on ancillary areas apart from recognizing and refer-

ring them, seems to be a gross disservice to the public, who depend upon optometrists for service and advice.

It is therefore refreshing and stimulating to find a new book which considers in detail the optical problems encountered in everyday practice. Such a work has been undertaken by Henri Obstfeld with considerable success. It is written in a clear concise style and covers the essential optical problems which confront the optometrist in practice.

From the introductory chapter on Geometrical Optics - a very clear and concise review for most of us - to the concluding chapter on Contact Lenses, the author considers the visual system in all its optical ramifications. There is a review of the basic optics of emmetropia and ametropia, the visual optics of refractive errors, and their correction. The chapters on spectacle magnification and relative spectacle magnification require but little additional thought to adapt them to the prescription of proper base curves for spectacle lenses in order to alleviate the problems of anisometropia.

The author also considers the optical problems involved in the condition and correction of presbyopia and astigmatism. Very interesting and appropriate chapters are devoted to "Ocular Rotation" and "Ocular Catoptrics and Catadioptrics". These may appear to the neophyte as excess baggage but they are indeed very practical in dealing with patients.

The chapter dealing with the optics of contact lenses should prove to be very useful to the contact lens practitioner. Here we find the basic optical problems explained in a clear and condensed fashion. He deals with such problems as the effect of pupil size, the correction of astigmatism (from an optical viewpoint, not the technique of accomplishing the ideal), magnification effects, and problems in presbyopia and binocular vision. But then, are optics very important in hydrophobic types of lenses, as long as the patient can wear them and achieve $20/30$ or better? (Hopefully, he/she will not complain about slight reductions in vision). Where have our standards of precise optical correction gone? So what is the importance of that last diopter of cylinder, or any old axis

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within ten degrees?

Yes, you will find *Optics in Vision* a useful stimulating and challenging book. It will not do to just read it casually. You must read it, study it, and then refer to it when problems arise. It should be in every optometrist's library, along with other classics in Optics.

**E.J. Fisher, Dip. Opt.,
B.A., D.Sc., F.A.A.O.**

External Infections of the Eye: Bacterial, Viral, Mycotic, ed.2., Helene Fedukowicz, M.D., 283 pp., with illus., \$20.00 (U.S.), New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. 1978.

The first part of this textbook includes a beautiful collection of 47 colour plates presenting clinical pictures, techniques of laboratory procedures and diagnosis, and photomicrographs of microbial organisms.

The second part of this book has five chapters, four of which refer to external infections of the eye covering bacterial, viral, and fungal infections. This is followed by a practical and helpful chapter on working-up patients with external ocular disease and endophthalmitis. Details are also presented for obtaining and preparing conjunctival smears for cytological examination.

An extensive bibliography is provided at the end of each chapter.

Joseph Mittelman, O.D., F.A.A.O.

Ocular Anatomy, by J.D. Spooner, Published by Butterworth's, Boston, 1976, 226 pages \$17.95

This book appears to be an offset copy of the original published in 1957 by Hatton Press. At the time, the author was Lecturer in Anatomy in Ophthalmic Optics Department of the Northampton College of Advanced Technology (now Department of Optometry and Visual Science, The City University), London.

The poor reproductive quality of the figures in the book is apparent even before a serious effort is made to read it. Many of the figures are completely valueless. Examples include; a photograph of the human fundus (Fig. VII, 8) in which the blood vessels are not visible, blurred photographs which are meant to

show individual variations in the frontal appearance of the human iris (Fig. IV, 9), and indistinct photographs of the skull and orbit (Figs. VIII, 1 and 8) and brain (Figs. VII, 12 and 16). Numerous additional figures, especially photographs of histological sections, are difficult to decipher. This criticism applies equally well to the figure captions which are frequently blurred and difficult to read. To make matters worse, the quality of the binding is inferior. Over 50 pages of the copy in the possession of this reviewer have broken away from the spine after a few weeks of use.

Aside from the question of production quality, the book is subject to two main criticisms. First, too much ground is covered in too little space. One can hardly expect 226 pages to be sufficient to adequately describe the anatomy of the eye and surrounding structures as well as that of the visual pathways and associated portions of the brain, in addition to a description of the eye's embryological development, evolution and genetic relationships. Throw in an epilogue consisting of a copy of an essay by Sherrington on the eye and appendices describing ocular dissection and histological techniques (the last 20 pages) and the small size of the book is more obvious. What may have been an adequate summary over two decades ago is not today.

A second point is simply that the book is becoming outdated. Anatomical advances of the last 22 years are missing. The lack of information provided by electron microscopy is particularly glaring. In fact, the book did not contain all of the most recent information available even when originally published. Thus, little reference is made to Warwick's studies of the third cranial nerve nucleus which were published in the early 1950's.

The most attractive feature of the book is that it is written from an optometric point of view. Sections such as those dealing with variations in optical constants of the human eye and refraction and growth are not found in other ocular anatomy texts. However, an expanded and revised version with greater attention to figure reproduction would have been much more acceptable.

**J.G. Sivak, L.Sc.O.,
M.S., Ph.D.**

Electronystagmography: Technical Aspects and Atlas, by Joseph Toggia, Charles C. Thomas Co., Springfield, Ill., 1976, hard cover, 160 pages.

This book is an excellent introduction to the principles of electronystagmography (ENG) and its clinical application. It is published in easily readable print and is divided into five short chapters dealing with the historical, technical and clinical aspects of ENG. The author has clearly and succinctly described the various categories of nystagmus and the procedures for eliciting and evaluating visual and vestibular nystagmus and diagnosing neurological disorders. Dr. Toggia has avoided elaborate discussions of the physiological basis of phenomena presented in the text without making the phenomenon appear mysterious and unexplainable. He wisely gives only a casual explanation of some of the principles discussed and presents a 26 page bibliography on most of the subjects for those readers desiring additional information. Specific cross-reference between subject matter and the bibliography are, however, not given.

Also included in this book is a 73 page atlas illustrating the technical aspects of ENG, and an index of neurological, otological and ophthalmological disorders with accompanying ENG records. This section is particularly effective in illustrating the use of ENG in diagnosing physiological disorders.

Dr. Toggia has managed to present much information in a reasonably short and well-sectioned text presenting his own views as well as the opinion of others. The title of his book, however, is somewhat deceptive in that it can be interpreted to be a "cookbook" for ENG. For the reader uninitiated in electrophysiological procedures the text will undoubtedly present some conceptual problems. The text appears to be directed to the clinician or researcher who is already familiar with electrophysiological apparatus and is interested in exploring the clearly outlined potentials of ENG. For the individual wishing to set up an ENG unit this text is an excellent reference text.

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