TOPICS IN NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY

by H. Stanley Thompson, M.D.

Williams & Wilkins,
Baltimore/London

Although many of the topics discussed in this book are too specialised to be used in everyday optometric practice, I found it to be extremely interesting.

As the preface states, the book is addressed to the neuro-ophthalmologist, neurologist or ophthalmologist. I feel that research optometrists would also find this book very helpful.

The author has divided this work into five chapters, each one headed by an authority in the field who has had colleagues author each subdivision.

The latest techniques in perimetry, pupil investigation and eye movements are dealt with. I found the chapter devoted to perimetric and tangent screen result interpretation has opened new vistas for me.

Interspersed between very detailed neurological discussions important information is divulged which can be of great importance in daily practice. For example in the chapter on pupils, it was noted that there is a loss of corneal sensitivity in Adie's pupil patients. This must be taken into account when fitting these people with contact lenses.

The chapter on the pathophysiology of optic nerve disease is also out of our sphere of operation, although I got a better understanding of the difficulties encountered when dealing with the VER.

Two topics discussed which also are almost must reading for the optometrist, are eye movements and nystagmus. Any optometrist either engaged in orthoptics or contemplating entering the field, should read the neurological background and research being done in the eye movements section. It brings home just how complicated the problem of eye movement disfunction really is.

The last chapter on CT screening in neuro-ophthalmology can be read for interest's sake, but I doubt if it can be useful for the average optometrist.

I do not think this book belongs on every optometrist's shelf, but it should be a part of every optometric school library.

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