



# BOOK REVIEWS

**Symptoms in Eye Examination**  
by Geoffrey Ball, R.O., M.Sc., FBCO  
published by Butterworths & Co. (Publishers)  
Ltd, 1982

This easy reading, yet informative text book is divided into two sections.

The first section deals with patient/practitioner communication throughout the case history. It includes techniques to extract and interpret information obtained throughout the interview. It stresses the importance of listening carefully to what your patient is saying, as well as keeping your replies on a simple, understandable level.

In addition to verbal clues, this section also discusses various recording techniques to maximise time, space, and information gathered. Computerized systems are compared and contrasted to standard recording card methods.

From the case history, the book then moves onto dealing with the problem patient who can't wear the prescribed spectacles comfortably. Problems induced by the patient, practitioner, and/or ophthalmic device are all discussed. A neat and simple check list is drawn up in an attempt to keep the cost of regrinding to a minimum.

The second section of the book deals with the analysis of data taken from the case history. It summarizes common symptoms and their probable causes. Accordingly, solutions to some of these problems are also suggested. A whole chapter is dedicated to the classic complaint of headache. Also discussed are conditions such as scotopic abnormalities, anisometropia, even dietary insufficiency as possible causes for the symptoms we all hear.

The book concludes with a very informative appendix which is made up of a series of trouble shooting charts. These charts list common complaints and possible causes for the symptoms. Although it is a rather simplified approach, it could give the doctor a starting point in terms of a tentative diagnosis. It does not go as far as to suggest treatments, rightly, this should be left up to the doctor's professional discretion.

Although this book is written in a rather non-scientific fashion, I feel that the general practitioner could stand to expand his/her knowledge in the areas of extracting a very good case history from the patient, and utilizing this valuable information to its fullest extent.

W. Andrew Patterson, O.D.

**Glaucoma: Conceptions of a Disease-Pathogenesis, Diagnosis, Therapy**, edited by Klaus Heilmann and Kenneth T. Richardson. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, London, Toronto, 1978, price: \$69.00, 434 pp.

Although published five years ago, this book remains a highly informative and authoritative text on the subject which is of great importance to all eye care professionals. From the forward by Hans Goldmann to the epilog by Stephen Drance, the contributors from North America, Europe and the United Kingdom represent many of the leading authorities in basic and clinical aspects of glaucoma research, diagnosis, and treatment.

The book is divided into eight major parts, Glaucoma: Conceptions; Functional Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology; Glaucoma Damage; Methods of Examination; Pharmacology; Management of the Glaucomas; Surgical Techniques and The Glaucomas: Classification and Synthesis. Within each section a varying number of chapters have been written by recognized researchers and clinicians in specific aspects of the field.

Having enjoyed the heated exchanges between several of the authors at scientific meetings for a number of years, there is much less diversity of opinion than I would have anticipated. As frequently happens in a book of this nature, there is considerable variation in the quality, depth and comprehensiveness of the respective chapters. In addition, there is inevitably a certain amount of duplication both in the text and in the references which are conveniently presented *in toto* following the epilog.

A number of the chapters merit individual mention either because of their importance to the understanding of current concepts of pathogenesis of glaucoma or to the clinical detection of glaucoma suspects.

Peter Graham mars his otherwise interesting and informative chapter on the "Epidemiology of Chronic Glaucoma" (reaffirming prevalences of chronic glaucoma in the 0.25-0.75% range) with a derogatory comment on optometrists who apparently have not the considerable training and experience required to make "an informed guess". Johannes W. Rohen's "Chamber Angle", David Cole's "Ciliary Processes", S.S. Hayreh's monographical "Structure and Blood Supply of the Optic Nerve" and Anders Bill's "Physiological Aspects of the Circulation in the Optic Nerve" provide an excellent anatomical and physiological background for understanding current concepts of the pathogenesis of glaucoma as covered in later chapters by Hayreh, Spaeth and Aulhorn.

Evidence appears to indicate that the trabecular meshwork is the site of the abnormal resistance to outflow and hence elevated intraocular pressure but the precise mechanisms and reasons have not been fully explained. Despite sophisticated axoplasmic flow studies the ischemic theory for optic nerve head damage remains in favour over the purely mechanical hypothesis.

Hetherington's cursory chapter on ophthalmoscopy provides little more information than is available in recent basic texts, whereas Greve in a chapter on perimetry, succeeds in emphasizing the paramount importance of visual fields in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma; I found this chapter to be far more succinct, comprehensive and readable than his book. In it, he emphasizes screening techniques such as the Friedman Analyzer and the Armaly-Drance combined kinetic and static method for use with Goldmann type perimeters. He also describes the Octopus (Computer perimeter) in detail and concludes that "increasing pressure of time, the disease of our century, and decreasing quality of auxiliary personnel...are good advocates for the adoption of automated perimetry".

The comprehensive chapter on Tonometry by Draeger and Jessen contrasts with and perhaps puts into perspectives "Tonography" which Dueker covers in less than four pages. I was pleasantly surprised to find an excellent chapter on photography by Riedel with details of goniophotography using the Zeiss Photoslitlamp and the Goldmann three mirror lens. Following the sections of medical and surgical management (which only occupy about 1/6th of the book) the book concludes with several chapters on the classification of primary, congenital and secondary glaucomas. Recent developments in the surgical and medical treatment of glaucoma such as Argon laser trabeculoplasty, Neodymium-YAG and other iridotomies, timolol maleate and other  $\beta 1$  and  $\beta 2$  adrenergic blockers, understandably, have sparse or no coverage.

In summary, the quality and usefulness of the figures are exceptionally good. Most chapters are well written and readable with typographical errors principally found in those sections which are the most verbose. Notwithstanding this comment I would recommend this book as a useful review and reference source for any practitioner involved in the tentative or definitive diagnosis of glaucoma.

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