



## BOOK REVIEWS

**Dictionary of Eye Terminology**, by Barbara Cassin Sheila Solomon; edited by M.L. Rubin. 1984, Triad Publishing Co., Gainesville, FL, 32601, USA. Soft cover, 240 pages, \$14.95 U.S.

**A**s knowledge in a field expands, so does its vocabulary and, consequently, the need to provide tools to assist in understanding the ever-increasing division into specialty groups and sub-groups.

Compacting terminology for all branches of health care into a single dictionary is an expensive undertaking that would only produce a very unwieldy volume. Such a project would be unlikely to receive the widespread distribution that a smaller specialized dictionary, particularly a desk reference, can achieve.

The authors seem to have responded to a very real need. Non-professional ophthalmic personnel, students, office aides, general physicians and nurses will find in this compact volume the answers

to their many questions on eye terminology.

The book contains 3,000 terms in alphabetical order. Definitions are presented in simple language, readily understandable by non-professionals. A further bonus is that most terms are catalogued under specific classes by an underlined notation, such as *Anatomy*, *Pathologic Condition*, *Drug*, *Optical Instrument*, *Optics*, *Optical Device*, *Surgical Instrument*, *Functional Defect*, *Congenital Anomaly* and many others. Where necessary, there are cross references which are printed in capital letters. There are few illustrations — pen and ink sketches — and most relate to eye movements and positions.

Practitioners who already possess a good dictionary may not be interested in acquiring this new publication for themselves, but they should consider it for their office staff. The money conscious student will find this book a bargain and a lifelong friend.

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**The Visual Fields Manual, a Practical Guide to Testing and Interpretation**, by J.D. Trobe and J.S. Glaser, 219 pages + index, 1983, Triad Publishing Co., Gainesville, Florida, 32601, USA. \$17.95 (paperback).

**T**his is an ideal book for anyone interested in visual fields, with the additional benefit of its being inexpensive. It is organized in a very straightforward and practical manner, and assists the reader in developing strategies of field testing which will greatly enhance the examiner's ability to find field defects. (As the authors suggest, it is very boring to test fields unless you are looking for something.)

There are some 200 illustrations in this book (the illustrators are Frances Goldstein and Louis Clark), and they are uniformly clear and relevant. One series of illustrations is particularly helpful and innovative: this is a set of nine triptychs showing nerve fiber bundle defects from an ophthalmoscopic, schematic retinal, and visual field standpoint.

In addition to chapters on basic visual pathways and related anatomy (which are refreshingly problem-oriented), stimulus presentation, instrumentation and exploration strategies, there are chapters on common pitfalls of field testing and on

interpretation. The latter chapter includes a schematic outline of the steps leading to localization of the cause of field defects which should be 'on the wall' in any field testing area.

The preceding chapters take you up to page 154 in this book; the authors could have stopped here, satisfied that they had produced an excellent text. Fortunately, they decided to continue with two more chapters. Chapter 9 includes 13 problem cases which have been improperly tested and/or recorded. The reader is invited to decide what the errors are, and then to turn the page where the authors' answers (and reasoning) may be found. (This friendly, challenging approach is found throughout the book, and there are short problem sets following the other chapters with detailed answers provided at the back of the book.) The final chapter presents another 20 correctly-tested sets of fields, and the reader may again match wits with the authors (with answers provided).

The authors have a long-standing and broadly-based interest in the visual fields (some of their journal articles in this area stretch back over the past 20 years), and they succeed in communicating this enthusiasm to the reader.

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