
It is a remarkable achievement to produce a book which is both intelligible to the paediatrician and of value to the ophthalmologist. This has been accomplished by obtaining contributions from ophthalmologists who are particularly interested in the diseases of childhood, and by editing the material to be of specific interest to the paediatricians. This, with the addition of a few key modern references, has resulted in a concise, beautifully illustrated account which can be used for rapid reference by either department.

The book consists of a short anatomo-physiological description of the eye and the clinical methods of its examination. Particular attention has been paid to describing the tests that any clinician can and should be able to undertake. This is followed by an extremely well-written chapter on strabismus, which forms the major part of paediatric ophthalmology.

Much of diagnosis depends on being able to recognize what one sees, and a textbook that aids in this will always be well used. The illustrations of the external ocular diseases could hardly be improved upon, and their excellence has enabled the account of local eye disease to be reduced to a minimum.

The next part of the book recognizes that the paediatrician is a physician, and devotes the space to the ocular manifestations of systemic diseases, including an outstanding chapter on genetic aspects and hereditary disease. The inherited conditions that manifest ocular pathology are summarized in a very good table which concludes the final chapter.

The only chapters which I found added little were those on the reading and social aspects of ophthalmic problems, but this in no way detracted from the value of this book, both to ophthalmologists and children's physicians.


The authors, Dr. Hoyt, a neuro-opthalmologist, and Miss Beeston, a photographer, have set out to describe and illustrate the fundus oculi as it appears in various neurological disorders. Between them they have produced a book that is well written and beautifully illustrated with both black and white and stereoscopic colour pictures, the latter being viewed through a collapsible viewer that is tucked into the back cover of the book together with 14 reels of colour slides. The first chapter deals very fully with papilloedema, both in its development and regression; the difficulties in diagnosis are stressed, and the very important point is made that it is sometimes impossible to be sure about disc swelling at one examination, so that it may be necessary to observe the case for a period of time to see if it changes. The second chapter is devoted to anomalies of the disc that may be confused with papilloedema, while the third chapter is concerned with disc swelling from local and systemic disease. A study of these three chapters would be of great value to all doctors who have to decide about the presence of papilloedema and who are responsible for the instigation of neurosurgical investigations.

In the fourth chapter the authors discuss the pale optic disc, first in relation to the congenital variations that may mimic pathologic pallor and then in relation to the pallor that occurs from retinal disease, papilloedema, and lesions behind the eyeball. They stress the apparent pallor of the discs in infancy and warn against equating pallor with poor vision. The last chapter reviews combined disorders of the retina and brain as revealed in the fundus; including both congenital rarities and the more common vascular diseases.

The illustrations generally are of a very high standard and the stereoscopic slides are striking; even though it is impossible to view the fundus stereoscopically with present-day ophthalmoscopes, these three-dimensional pictures will help the interpretation of the two-dimensional views obtained with the conventional ophthalmoscope.

The book is somewhat difficult to read, because the main text and illustrations are printed on the left hand pages, while on the right hand ones are printed the guide pictures and illustrations for the stereoscopic slides; this causes a certain amount of overlapping and repetition of material. The price is high for a book of limited scope but medical school libraries might well purchase it for use in teaching small groups of students.


Volume XIV of Advances contains articles on ulcerative colitis, poisonings in childhood, the haemoglobinopathies, the current status of live attenuated vaccines, the physiological and biochemical determinants of development, and the hereditary renal glomerular diseases in infancy and childhood. The outstanding contribution and the best buy for the practising paediatrician and Public Health Officer is without any doubt Karzon and Henderson's review of virus vaccines. This comprehensive review deals with smallpox, rabies, poliomyelitis, measles, and yellow fever, with a note on the prospects of developing a vaccine against rubella in the reasonably near future. From these 120 pages the reader will get a complete understanding of the respective merits of dead and live attenuated vaccines, their use in combination and with γ-globulin, and their mode of employment for child populations under varying world conditions. For the more sophisticated, the articles by Kretchmer and Greenberg on biological determinants, and by Professor Jonxis on the haemoglobinopathies are masterly reviews of difficult subjects, though a knowledge of the concepts of modern molecular biochemistry is a prerequisite to their full understanding. They will be hard going for those who wish only to remain 'with it' at the growing