



BOOK REVIEWS

Cataract Surgery

By Andrew Coombes and David Gartry. *Fundamentals of Clinical Ophthalmology*. Series Editor Susan Lightman. Pp. xiii + 218. Illustrated. £60. BMJ. 2003. ISBN 0-7279-120-1. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R615, members R585.)

This book is part of a series of ophthalmic monographs, written for ophthalmologists in training and general ophthalmologists wishing to update their knowledge in specialised areas. It provides an up-to-date clinical and practical approach to the subject so that the reader can readily use the information in everyday clinical practice.

Cataract surgery is a dynamic and complex field and is, without doubt, a fundamental part of ophthalmology. This book aims to cover the subject comprehensively, particularly the technical aspects of learning, performing and teaching phacoemulsification.

The inclusion of chapters on the Third World and the future of cataract surgery provide the reader with a broad perspective of the management of cataract under a variety of circumstances. The structure of the text, cross-referencing between chapters and a detailed index, minimise repetition.

The book is set out in a logical well-ordered manner taking the reader through a detailed description of each step in the cataract procedure. The various alternatives at each stage of the procedure are discussed in detail. Tables of advantages, disadvantages and complications provide the reader with comprehensive information that is easy to grasp and apply. Excellent diagrams are included in the text, adding clarity to each step.

The text provides the reader with essential knowledge of the physics incorporated into modern phacoemulsification equipment used for cataract surgery. This information is vital if the surgeon is to maximise the potential of his or her instrumentation.

Other 'ancillary' topics include biometry, materials used to produce lenses and anaesthesia, and add a useful dimension. The segment on paediatric cataract is less detailed and emphasises the author's belief that this is a complex subspecialty area which requires management by a multidisciplinary team of doctors and eye professionals who work closely with the child and parents.

The complications of cataract surgery are well covered in two separate chapters.

The text maintains the high standard of others in the series of ophthalmic monographs and will prove particularly popular as a source of current knowledge and clinical management of cataract surgery.

A D N Murray

Strabismus

By Frank Billson. *Fundamentals of Clinical Ophthalmology*. Series Editor Susan Lightman. Pp. xv + 102. Illustrated. £45. BMJ. 2003. ISBN 0-7279-1562-2. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R615, members R585.)

This book is part of a series of ophthalmic monographs written for ophthalmologists in training and general ophthalmologists wishing to update their knowledge in specialised areas. It combines clinical experience with current knowledge of the underlying disease processes. It provides an up-to-date clinical and practical approach to strabismus so that the reader can readily use the information in everyday clinical practice.

An increased understanding of the organisation and development of the visual cortex in primates, and increased awareness of interplay between sensory and motor development have resulted in a major shift in the way that clinicians think about infant vision and the eye and child development. Thirty to forty years ago it was not uncommon for the family doctor to reassure families that the child would grow out of a squint. Now the understanding is that no child is too young to be assessed, managed and treated with the added assurance of safer modern anaesthesia and surgical techniques for infants and children when strabismus surgery is indicated. This goes hand in hand with the understanding that unless treatment is introduced early in the critical periods of development, a good visual outcome will be frustrated. There is now a responsibility for those entrusted with the care of children in the community to become their advocates and to ensure early recognition of abnormality in development, appropriate intervention, and completion of care in the first decade of life.

This book reflects the author's long clinical experience as well as his continued thoughtful and enthusiastic interest in the basic developmental physiology underlying binocular single vision and the failure of children's eyes to become aligned normally.

The text is relatively condensed but effective, and is terse, direct and simple in style. It crystallises the essential considerations needed by the clinician to deal with strabismus in all age groups. While this text is primarily written for the trainee in ophthalmology, it will prove to be a useful learning and teaching tool for the general ophthalmologist. It can be read in independent segments, or in its entirety. It is well classified, easy to read and the illustrations lead to better understanding of the text.

This book brings all the recent findings of neuroscience that address the issue of amblyopia and strabismus and places them squarely in the discussion of clinical management of these problems — it will as a consequence replace many earlier texts on strabismus.

A D N Murray



Color Atlas of Immunology

By Gerd-Rudiger Burmester and Antonia Pezzutto. Pp xiv + 322. Illustrated. EUR(D) 34,95/CHF 57,80. Georg Thieme Verlag. 2003. ISBN 3-13-126741-0. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R375, members R351.)

This *Color Atlas* sets out to integrate basic immunology concepts, laboratory investigations and the clinical presentations of diseases. The focus is on human immunology. There are four sections.

The first section provides an introduction to fundamental immunological principles covering topics such as innate and adaptive immunity, B- and T-cell development, HLA system and hypersensitivity reactions. The discussion of monocytes and dendritic cells is up to date, as is the description of apoptosis and the mechanisms involved in autoimmunity.

The second section is a brief explanation of current laboratory assays used to measure immunity, including ELISA, immunofluorescence, and more specialised assays of T-cell function. Section three forms the bulk of the book and covers clinical immunology. Text is brief but packs a lot of information, and understanding is facilitated by accompanying glossy colour pictures and illustrations that highlight relevant clinical manifestations, pathology, lab findings and immunopathogenesis of the conditions covered, with an emphasis on haematology and rheumatic diseases. Section four is a very useful appendix of tables that includes a listing of key facts of important cytokines, and CD nomenclature of 247 molecules.

In summary, the strengths of this book are in the approach of integrating basic immunology with clinical findings, pictorial representation of complex concepts, and its compact size (it can easily fit into a white coat pocket). One weakness is a lack of references to the specific concepts covered. The book will appeal to undergraduate medical and biology students and any physician wanting to keep up with the impact of immunology on clinical practice. It offers good value for the price, and will be competing with books like *Immunology for Medical Students* (Nairn and Helbert) and *Really Essential Medical Immunology* (Roitt and Rabson).

Stan Ress

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Books Received

The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The SAMJ does not publish unsolicited reviews.

Guidelines for Safe Recreational Water Environments. Vol.1. Coastal and Fresh Waters. WHO. Pp. xxxii + 219. w.fr.70./US\$63. WHO. ISBN 92-4-154580-1. Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R575, members R555.

Pediatric Pain: Biological and Social Context. Progress in Pain Research and Management. Volume 26. Edited by Patrick J McGrath and G Allen Finley. Pp. 225. US\$76. IASP. 2003. ISBN 0-931092-49-3. Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R699, members R680.

Primary HIV/AIDS Care. A practical guide for primary health care personnel in the clinical and supportive care of people with HIV/AIDS. Fourth Edition (10th Anniversary Year). Pp. 342. Illustrated. R255. JACANA. 2003. ISBN 1-919931-74-0. Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R255, members R225.

Laugh the Beloved Country. Compiled by James Clarke and Harvey Tyson. Pp. 318. Illustrated. R179. Double Storey. 2003. ISBN 1-919930-32-9. Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R179, members R179.

Color Atlas of Cytology, Histology, and Microscopic Anatomy. By Wolfgang Kuehnel. Pp. ix + 534. Illustrated. EUR(D)34,95/CHF57,80. Thieme. 2003. ISBN 3-13-5624004-8. Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R385, members R355.

Manual of Basic Techniques for a Health Laboratory. 2nd Edition. WHO. Pp. 410. Illustrated. Sw.fr50./US\$45. WHO. 2003. ISBN92-4-154530-5. Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R419, members R394.

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