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## BOOK REVIEWS

### ***Pickwell's Binocular Vision Anomalies: Investigation and Treatment, 3rd edn***

Bruce J. Evans

Butterworth-Heinemann, 1997

ISBN 0 7506 2062, £35.00

When referring to this text it is important to bear in mind that the intended readership is optometry students and practitioners. From the outset, differences in terminology compared with that used by the ophthalmologist or orthoptist are encountered. The first example of this is met on the first page when binocular vision is defined as 'the co-ordination and integration of what is received from the two eyes separately into a single binocular percept' – a definition that the ophthalmologist may give to binocular *single* vision. Classification of ocular deviations into heterophoria and strabismus, the former including latent strabismus and the latter excluding it, may also lead to some confusion if the reader 'dips into' the book. However, the overview of classification in Chapter 1 and the glossary at the end of the book help to ensure that terms are interpreted as intended by the author.

Within Part 1 of the book, which is devoted to investigation, particular attention is given to the young child. A detailed explanation of the cover test is given, with useful diagrams. The difficulties that may be encountered when refracting the strabismic child, the importance of binocular balancing of the refractive correction and the inaccuracy of subjective testing in the amblyope are discussed. Visual acuity tests for children are covered briefly. An overview of the development of factors involved in the visual system (e.g. visual acuity, fixation, accommodation) is presented.

Part 2 of the book is entitled Heterophoria. Omissions occur in describing the evaluation of the heterophoria regarding level of compensation. A large section is devoted to fixation disparity with an interesting chapter on binocular instability. Convergence insufficiency is also included in this section. Treatment is covered in some detail, but due to omissions in investigation selection of suitable candidates may be misinterpreted (e.g. differential diagnosis between convergence paralysis and gross convergence insufficiency is not given). Also, whilst many of the exercises described are dependent on

the appreciation of physiological diplopia, no indication is given to the practitioner on how the patient may be helped to appreciate this phenomenon.

Sensory changes in manifest strabismus introduces the third part of the book (Strabismus). Many of the management techniques in this section are not, to my knowledge, in common practice and involve a different approach to the clinical treatment of strabismus. The same may be said of some of the therapies suggested for amblyopia. The reader may also be left unclear about the difference between eccentric fixation and abnormal retinal correspondence.

The final part of the book contains a chapter on incomitancy and a chapter on nystagmus. In the first of these an excellent explanation is given of the actions of the extraocular muscles and a brief overview of investigation of incomitancy. Both these chapters are a good clinical guide for optometrists but fall short of the detail needed for the ophthalmologist or orthoptic student.

The comprehensive list of references within what may be considered as 'optometry literature' may provide a guide to wider reading, but this book will be of limited value to those studying this area of ophthalmology.

A. Y. Firth

### ***Laboratory and Radiological Tests for Primary Eye Care***

Gail Burden and Stephen A. Bryant

Butterworth Heinemann, 1997

ISBN 0 7506 9755 5. £22.99

Choosing the correct investigations and tests in a busy eye casualty or clinic can often be difficult. A knowledge of both the investigations available and the interpretation of the results is essential for coming to the correct diagnoses and providing effective treatment. Drs Burden and Bryant have come up with a useful manual to help both the busy clinician and the trainee to select appropriate investigations.

Section 1 gives a simple explanation of the commonly requested investigations, while Section 2 gives a disease-by-disease account of symptoms and signs, ocular manifestations, laboratory investigations and treatment. Section 3 is a synopsis of tests, normal ranges and disease associations.

Obviously in such a wide-ranging book detail has to be sacrificed for scope; however, a detailed knowledge of the principles of investigations often helps in a deeper understanding of their usefulness. Results can often be difficult to interpret and a more detailed discussion of results obtained would have been very useful. The anatomical organisation makes quick location of some diseases difficult. An initial breakdown or index at the beginning of Section 2 would have been helpful as some conditions cross the anatomical division.

The layout is simple and clear, and once identified, the investigations are well laid out. Clear guidance on treatment is also very useful in a clinical situation, but some of the treatments are controversial and options are not discussed. The reference list at the end of each area is useful.

This book would be a useful addition to a clinic or eye casualty library, but as the authors state themselves, there is no better way of obtaining good results than good communication with local laboratory and radiology departments.

S. Winder

***Surgery of the Eyelid, Orbit, and Lacrimal System (Vol. 3: Ophthalmology Monographs 8)***

American Academy of Ophthalmology

This is the third volume in the Oculoplastics Section of the American Academy Ophthalmology Monographs, Series 8. It covers orbital disease and

surgery, including trauma, the enophthalmic socket and management of lacrimal disorders. The final chapter is a 'Self-Study Examination' consisting of 40 multiple-choice questions with explanatory answers.

The book contains excellent synopses of the more common conditions and each chapter supplies a list of references for further in-depth reading around each subject. As always with the Ophthalmology Monographs the information presented is up to date. Basic processes and key points are emphasised, which give a good background for discussion of each specific condition in more detail.

The book contains several black and white and colour photographs and many excellent clear line diagrams, which help in explaining surgical techniques.

The section on the anophthalmic socket is one of the best I have seen, giving details not only of the management of the socket itself, but also about the production and after-care of artificial eyes, which I have never encountered so well described before.

Although the book does not cover the oculoplastic subjects in great detail, it contains enough valuable information to make it a useful addition to the library of an oculoplastic surgeon, and will give an excellent grounding to the general ophthalmologist in the management of orbital, lacrimal and socket disorders.

Ruth Manners