

Book reviews

Management of the Patient With Subnormal Vision, by Gerald Fonda, M.D., F.A.C.S., St. Louis, 1955, The C. V. Mosby Company. Clothbound. 161 pages, 88 figures, references, and index. \$11.

Protagonists of the "publish or perish" philosophy in academia usually emphasize that the investigator whose experience in any field is so broad as to be unique has the responsibility of sharing this experience with his colleagues. In this compact, well-illustrated, and clearly articulated volume, Fonda has shared his experiences gleaned from twenty years with some 3,500 patients with low vision.

The fourteen short, pithy chapters bring to the clinical ophthalmologist all phases of the handling of the patient with subnormal vision who represents a frequently neglected segment of the responsibilities of each refractionist. The author describes and discusses the indications for spectacle-mounted aids, telescopes, contact lenses, and nonspectacle magnifiers. The subject of the optics of loupes is presented with unusual clarity and simplicity. Chapters are also devoted to illumination, to binocularity, and to training in the use of optical aids.

Peculiarly, the excellent discussions of equipment and of examination procedures are relegated to the end of the book. The neophyte working with this group of patients should not be too disappointed if he is unable to match Dr. Fonda's estimate of fifteen minutes required for the special procedures and instructions necessary for the patient with subnormal vision.

The reader will appreciate the directness of manner, the brevity, as well as the enthusiasm for his subject which the author infuses into his entire presentation. One only wishes that he had pursued somewhat further the subject of motivation and sociologic and other factors which influence success or failure in the wearing of optical aids. The chief virtue of this volume, which should commend it to all who are interested in refraction, is that it is a true distillate of the knowledge of one of the most experienced physicians in this field. The author makes no attempt to "sell" or stress a system, a specific set of techniques, or a nomenclature de novo, as have other writers in the field of subnormal vision.

Benjamin Milder

Surgery of the Anterior Segment of the Eye, by J. Barraquer, R. C. Troutman, and J. Rutllán, translated and adapted by Richard Binkhorst, vol. I. New York, 1964, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 325 pages, \$25.00.

This first of a three-volume set deals primarily with the techniques and complications of cataract surgery, with Dr. Barraquer the principal contributor. As noted in the introductory statements, the book is not a descriptive atlas, but a presentation of personal techniques, critically compared with other techniques. Thus, enzymatic zonulolysis is presented as the method of choice for intracapsular lens extraction in all patients over 20 years of age. The details of this technique and the "open sky" delivery are clearly described, along with the results of the authors' extensive experience with this method. Of equal interest are the precise, detailed, and beautifully illustrated discussions of the various cataract incisions, suturing techniques, and other methods of delivery of the lens, with and without the use of alpha-chymotrypsin. Included under each topic is a section on the management of complications and accidents encountered during the procedure, as well as a long chapter devoted to postoperative complications and their treatment. The book is well written; the subject is well covered, and should be of interest and value to all ophthalmologists.

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Textbook of Pathology, by Bruce D. Fallis, 1964, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 739 pages, \$15.95.

This well-written and well-illustrated textbook of pathology was created with the needs of the medical student in mind. The subject matter is presented in an easily understood, organized, and didactic fashion. The author deliberately attempted to be concise and yet not to sacrifice any important information. As Dr. Fallis points out in his preface, a concise textbook of high teaching value was achieved by discussing more completely only selected topics; controversial topics were handled somewhat dogmatically to avoid confusing the beginning student, while topics of less