



## BOOKS

### UVEITIS

By Susan Lightman and Hamish Towler. *Fundamentals of Clinical Ophthalmology*. Series Editor: Susan Lightman. Pp. ix + 163. Illustrated. £42. BMJ. 1998. ISBN 0-7279-1201-X.

The recognition of the different patterns of uveitis is dependent primarily upon basic clinical skills, relying on the acquisition of a careful ophthalmic and systematic history, supported by meticulous examination of the eye and other relevant systems. Investigations play a limited role in the correlation of the distinct uveitis entities, but may be of great value when used selectively.

This book emphasises the clinical approach to uveitis and aims to provide a practical guide to the diagnosis, differential diagnosis and management of uveitis in all of its manifestations.

It is easy to follow, well classified and user friendly. The detailed sections on management of each of the uveitic syndromes are well illustrated with full colour and black and white photographs as well as line drawings. They are supported by a balanced and up-to-date selection of references.

It is edited by two leading authorities in ophthalmology and chapters are contributed by an international spread of experts and include anterior uveitis, intermediate uveitis, sarcoidosis, sympathetic ophthalmia, toxoplasmosis, Behçet's disease, other disorders, management of posterior uveitis and surgery in eyes with uveitis.

The book, which is the first in a new series in clinical ophthalmology commissioned by the *British Medical Journal*, brings the trainee ophthalmologist up to date with all the information about uveitis required for qualification. It will also prove a useful source of reference for experienced ophthalmologists.

The book will be a pleasure to own, not only because of its content, but because of the quality of the binding and typography.

Susan Lightman, the senior author is also the series editor. If the first of the series is an indication of what is to come, the other monographs should also be well worth having.

A D N Murray

### BURN CARE

By Steven E Wolf and David N Herndon. Pp. 131. US\$45. 1999. LANDES Bioscience. ISBN 157059526-7.

The Vademecum series of medical handbooks is designed to be a convenient, carry-along range.

As would be expected from a book compiled by one of the world's most respected burns centres, this small volume gives an excellent overview of current burn management.

All aspects of burn management are covered, from pre-hospital care to final rehabilitation.

Emanating as it does from a First-World burn centre, the emphasis is on the hospital management of major burns.

This is an inexpensive, small, comprehensive volume, which will be of value to medical students, registrars and practising physicians and should be available to all personnel involved in any way with the care of burn patients.

G Morrison

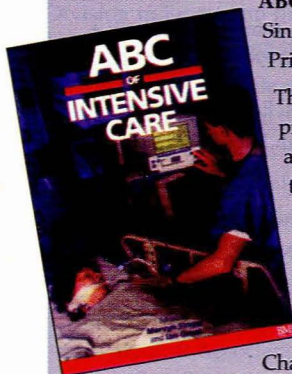
### GENETICS OF FOCAL EPILEPSIES

Edited by S F Berkovic, P Genton, E Hirsch and F Picard. Pp. viii + 286. Illustrated. £59/US\$103. John Libbey. 1999. ISBN 0-86196-569-8.

The importance of genetic factors in the epilepsies has been recognised since the time of Hippocrates. A considerable body of evidence now documents the major inherited component in the primary generalised epilepsies. In contrast, focal epilepsies have been regarded as due to focal, largely acquired, lesions.

It has recently emerged, however, that there are many forms of inherited focal epilepsy. Indeed, it is suggested that in childhood about 25% of seizures are from this category. The

### BOOK MANAGER'S CHOICE



**ABC of Intensive Care.** Edited by Mervyn Singer and Ian Grant. Published by BMJ. Price: R207

This latest addition to the ABC series provides an introduction to the specialty and aims to demystify intensive care for the interested beginner. It covers the key aspects of intensive care – organisation, technology, practice and ethics. Full of concise, practical information and illustrated with excellent colour photographs.

Chapters include: criteria for admission; organ dysfunction; patient management and support; outcome data and scoring systems; withdrawal of care; transport of the critically ill patient, and recovery.

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clinical definition of these syndromes has been followed by molecular genetic investigations such that many have now been linked to chromosomal sites, and mutations in the gene coding for the neuronal nicotinic acetylcholine receptor has been shown to be causal of the disorders.

This explosion of knowledge in the focal epilepsies has meant, paradoxically, that we are presently more informed about the biology of them than we are about the generalised epilepsies. This book brings together both the clinical and the

genetic evidence in this new field. It is derived from a meeting in Avignon in 1996, although the editors assure us that the formation has been up-dated to the present. There is a good coverage of the historical and clinical side, but there is much tedious repetition which reflects the meeting format. The book will be of interest to epileptologists as a handy, well-referenced summary of a new field, but is unlikely to find an audience outside this area.

R Eastman

## 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.

**High@dose Irradiation: Wholesomeness of Food Irradiated with Doses above 10 kGy.** Report of a Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Study Group. Technical Report Series No. 890. Pp. vi + 197. Sw.fr.42./\$37.80. WHO. 1999. ISBN 92-4-120890-2

**Resuscitation Rules.** By Tim Hodgetts and Nick Castle. Pp. x + 116. 13.95. BMJ. 1999. ISBN-7279-1371-9.

**Benefits and Hazards of Exercise.** Edited by Domhnall MacAuley. Pp. xii + 383. 35. BMJ. 1999. ISBN 0-7279-1412-X.

**ABC of Intensive Care.** Edited by Mervyn Singer and Ian Grant. Pp. vii + 52. 15.95. Illustrated. BMJ. 1999. ISBN 0-7279-1436-7.

**ABC of Sexual Health.** Edited by John Tomlinson. Pp. viii + 61. 14.95. Illustrated. BMJ. 1999. ISBN 0-7279-1373-5.

**ABC of Rheumatology.** Second Edition. Edited by Michael L Snaith. Pp. x + 90. 17.95. Illustrated. BMJ. 1999. ISBN 0-7279-1385-9.

**ABC of Eyes.** Third Edition. By PT Khaw and AR Elkington. Pp. 61. 16.95. Illustrated. BMJ 1999. ISBN 0-7279-1262-3.

The Cope Report 1999. Committee on Publication Ethics. Pp. 74. 12.95. BMJ. 1999. ISBN 0-7279-1471-5.

**Opioid Sensitivity of Chronic Pain.** Progress in Pain Research and Management Volume 14. Edited by Eija Kalso, Henry J McQuay and Zsuzsanna Wiesenfeld-Hallin. Pp. xvi + 397. \$68.00. IASP Press. 1999. ISBN 0-931092-28-0.

**Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery.** Proceedings of the 13th International Congress and Exhibition. Edited by HU Lemke, MJ Vannier, K Inamura and AG Farman. Pp. xvi + 1111. Illustrated \$176.50. Elsevier. 1999. ISBN 0-444-50290-4.

## BASIC SCIENCES IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

*A self-assessment text. Second Edition. By John Ferris. Pp. xiii + 480. Illustrated. £35. BMJ. 1999. ISBN 0-7279-1377-8.*

As an examiner in basic sciences in ophthalmology I opened this text with enthusiastic expectation. Both my enthusiasm and expectations were well rewarded.

This text covers nine aspects of the basic sciences, specifically as they relate to the needs of ophthalmologists. Ocular-, head-, neck- and neuro-anatomy are covered extensively. Ocular physiology and microbiology are given a similar amount of attention. Less emphasis is correctly placed on pathology, pharmacology, general physiology, genetics and finally statistics and epidemiology.

Although this book will primarily be of interest to ophthalmologists in training for basic multiple choice-type exams, it may also offer something to those committed to continuous professional development. The answers to the questions are given at the end of each chapter, but a short summary with additional information follows each set of questions. Short sketches, diagrams and illustrations are used extensively to illustrate the text.

The authors undoubtedly accomplish their goals as stated in the preface: ...'to provide an enjoyable means by which ophthalmologists may refresh their knowledge of established concepts and familiarise themselves with the more recent developments in the ocular basic sciences'. They also succeed in touching upon all the related basic sciences and in highlighting developments in the rapidly changing fields of immunology, genetics, wound healing and ocular biochemistry.

This text cannot be regarded as a short cut to the process of learning from text, lectures and practical experience, but it will serve to refresh memories and identify areas of individual weakness — both for the student and examiner.

D Meyer