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Vaughan and Asbury's General Ophthalmology, 17th edition

Paul R. Kanski, FRCOphth and John P. Whitcher, FRCOphth
USA: McGraw Hill, 2008
463 pages, ISBN 978-0-07-1330-00
Reviewed by IAN GUTTERIDGE, Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, The University of Melbourne

Predictably Vaughan and Asbury's General Ophthalmology 17th edition bears considerable resemblance to the 16th edition (2004), which I reviewed. Many chapters and much of the text within those chapters are very similar, if not identical. There has been some modification according to new technology (for example, optical coherence tomography), as well as revisiting of some chapters. It is also improved by the inclusion of 22 colour plates.

The Review chapters have had the most significant updates, including some restructuring and new text on the pathogenesis of age-related macular degeneration. Brief descriptions of clinical and surgical macularisation, the results of the AREDS study and anti-vascular endothelial growth factor therapy are added. The glaucoma chapter has also been revised. Pseudotumor is still wisely covered. I remain perplexed that the term 'papal block' does still not appear in the main text on the mechanisms of angle closure glaucoma, although it is used in the name of the tables.

The 16th and 17th editions are very similar; there are some changes in working, percentages and ophthalmic drugs. I see this book more for the use of general medical practitioners and medical students, where low cost and succinct style are useful. In the competitive market of ophthalmic books, eye-care practitioners in training would probably choose other books, especially those with more colour photographs.

System for Ophthalmic Dispensing, 3rd edition

Clifford W Brooks and Iris M Borish
St Louis, Missouri: Butterworth-Heinemann, Elsevier, 2007
608 pages, ISBN 978-0-7030-5000-0
Reviewed by NEVILLE TURNER, Victorian College of Optometrists, Melbourne

Ophthalmic optics and dispensing are topics that many practitioners take for granted in their daily practice. We are taught about it during our university studies and we quickly develop the skills and understanding needed to be competent in dispensing. While we know the key principles and have good skills, we often need a resource to solve an unusual problem. This book is such a resource.

The credentials of the authors are impressive. Both are professors of optometry at Indiana University. Professor Brooks is involved in the teaching of ophthalmic optics and lens finishing. Emeritus professor Borish has had an impressive career in private optometric practice, played a role in the founding of the school of optometry in Indiana in 1935 and is the author of *Clinical Dispensing*, which has been the foundation text book for generations of students. Now retired, he has recently had a book published about his life and exploits.

System for Ophthalmic Dispensing was written as a 'how to' manual for students and a reference for experienced practitioners. The book evolved by expansion of the authors' lecture notes used for teaching optometry.

The Ophthalmic Dispensing text is written at a 'how to' manual for students and a reference for experienced practitioners. The book evolved by expansion of the authors' lecture notes used for teaching optometry.

Each chapter covers the relevant content in depth and understanding is greatly assisted by enhanced photographs, clear diagrams and figures. Consistent with other books on this topic, it is designed and organised for students, and each chapter contains a preface test aimed at the understanding of the key points.

The review on Ophthalmic Dispensing covers frame materials and selection and provides ideas for fitting high plus and minus prescriptions. It covers all basic measurements—segment height, PDs, frame size—and some other topics that are not so common. How do you even measure when you use the pantoscopic tilt or wrap frames a little, or even thought about modifying segment heights when ordering vertical prism?

It has an extensive coverage of frame manipulations and adjustments, including many that most practitioners would not ordinarily consider.

The second part on Ophthalmic Lenses covers a broad range of lens optics, refraction and design. It provides useful calculations of lens thickness, although constants for higher RI lenses would be of assistance.

1. Judith W. Borish, Birmingham, Indiana University, 2008.

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