

Book Review

Ocular Syndromes. Walter J. Geeraets, 2nd Ed. Philadelphia: Lea Febiger, 1969. 289 pp. \$9.50.

Size is no indication of quality in medical books. This small volume is amazingly informative. Structurally, it is an ingenious cross reference analysis of syndromes which have ocular signs as primary, secondary or rare manifestations. Initially, syndromes and their synonyms are listed in alphabetical order. Although the extensive use of eponyms may lack appeal to some, it is simpler to remember "Ehlers-Danlos" than the less conventional synonym Fibrodysplasia elastica generalisata. In the next section, the 197 syndromes which have ocular manifestations are described. Not only are the findings in each portion of the orbital apparatus (lids, extraocular muscles, lacrimal glands, visual fields, anterior chambers, sclera, media, retina, choroid and optic nerve) clearly delineated, but concise, pertinent general information and other findings of clinical consequence are also presented. The bibliography is particularly well selected from original, classical descriptions, reviews and recent contributions.

Remaining cross reference sections make this monograph unique. Each portion of the ocular apparatus is listed together with the syndromes which may affect that portion and the manner of affliction. Each organ system is similarly outlined with a complete list of syndromes affecting that system and the orbital contents. Finally, syndromes are placed in categories based on age, sex, hereditary and etiologic factors.

Although this book is apparently a necessity for disciples of ophthalmology and neurology, it is not initially apparent that other practitioners would find it useful. Because many of the syndromes described (Rubella, Down's, Crouzon, de Lange, Ehlers-Danlos) are manifested at a young age or associated with congenital abnormalities, geneticists and pediatricians would find it of interest. Internal Medicine, so diverse in its scope, will readily appreciate the efforts of Dr. Geeraets in summarizing such a quantity of information. Over the period of a few months this book was used in following a number of patients on a general medical service. The syndromes (diseases) encountered for which *Ocular Syndromes* proved to be of value in learning and teaching included: amaurosis fugax, Argyll Robertson, Cushing's, Down's, Sickle Cell Anemia, Guillain-Barré, Horner's, Marfan's, Parinaud's, Sarcoidosis, Sjogren, Stevens-Johnson, Pseudo-xanthoma elasticum, Werner's and Wernicke's. For the student and resident this handy book was of continued value in expanding on previously acquired

knowledge and attempting to correlate and understand the complete spectrum of disease presented by the patient. Its greatest value to the young physician will be as a reference book on the ward to supplement and correlate information.

The author has fulfilled his declared intentions, tabulating and cross indexing syndromes associated with ocular manifestations in a pocket sized edition for daily clinical use. Its primary value will be to specialists, house officers and students. Wording is succinct by nature of the objectives of this book.

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