BOOKS, SOFTWARE, AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

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• Principles and Practice of Ophthalmology. Second Edition. Editors: Daniel M. Albert, MD, MS, Frederick A. Jakobiec, MD, DSc (Med.) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2000. 5583 pages, index, illustrated.

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WHEN THE FIRST EDITION OF ALBERT AND JAKOBIEC'S Principles and Practice of Ophthalmology was published, it was recognized as a landmark achievement of scholarly and editorial mastery. Awarded the best medical publication across all specialties by the Association of American Publishers in 1994, the six volumes of Principles and Practice of Ophthalmology provided an authoritative and comprehensive treatise of ophthalmology. In the second edition, Drs. Albert and Jakobiec, and associate editors, Drs. Azar and Gragoudas, have succeeded beautifully in overseeing the updating and evolution of their magnum opus.

This 6-volume 5,500 plus pages work was written by over 450 contributors. The section editors, respected authorities within their subspecialties, have done a wonderful job in ensuring that the style and readability of this book are remarkably consistent. Although more than 100 new chapters were added to the second edition, the total number of chapters was reduced from 434 to 422 by removing many outdated sections. Many of the chapters that had appeared previously in the basic science volume have been incorporated into the appropriate clinical sections. More than 500 new color illustrations have been added to the already more than 6000 illustrations from the first edition.

Volume 1 encompasses the basic sciences in ophthalmology. The seven sections in this volume include genetics, immunology, microbiology, pharmacology, toxicology, epidemiology, and lasers in ophthalmology. Detailed discussions on many of the latest basic science discoveries (e.g. angiogenic factors) and recent clinical developments (e.g. photodynamic therapy) are provided by the pioneers in these fields.

Volume 2 has sections devoted to conjunctiva, cornea, sclera, uveitis, and lens. Some of the new chapters within the cornea section include "Ocular surface transplantation," "Excimer laser photherapeutic keratectomy," "Incisional refractive surgery," "Lamellar refractive surgery," and "Laser refractive surgery." Within the lens section, the single chapter on intracapsular cataract extraction in the first edition has been replaced with chapters on "Phacoemulsification," "Secondary intraocular lens implantation," "Astigmatism in cataract surgery," and "Complications of cataract surgery." Both beginning and advanced surgeons will find this review of the latest development and techniques for cataract surgery and secondary lens implantation to be useful.

Volume 3 covers the retina and vitreous. Many advances and changes in vitreoretinal surgery have occurred since the first edition, and the editors have nicely updated this section. Among the completely new chapters are "Alternative treatments of neovascular age-related macular degeneration," "Office-based retinal detachment repair without permanent scleral buckling," "Giant retinal tears," "Surgical excision of subfoveal lesions," and "Surgical management of idiopathic macular holes."

Volume 4 includes sections on glaucoma, lids and orbit, and ophthalmic pathology. New chapters devoted to blepharoplasty and CO2 laser resurfacing have been added. Volume 5 encompasses neuroophthalmology, pediatric ophthalmology, eye and systemic disease. Volume 6 deals with ocular oncology, trauma, optics, low vision, and psychologic, social, legal and economic aspects.

In Dr. Jakobiec's preface to the second edition, he comments on the "accelerating obsolescence" of newly printed textbooks. Such is the inevitable price for any attempted summary of rapidly evolving fields. For example, readers of this new edition will have to look elsewhere to find a detailed discussion on macular translocation for the treatment of neovascular macular degeneration. In addition, although the chapters on refractive surgery provide a basic general introduction to the field, they are already outdated. At the time that these chapters were written, radial keratotomy was still commonly performed, and laser

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in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) and photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) were just beginning to grow in popularity. Since then, new indications for LASIK have been approved, advances in technique and instrumentation have been made, and results of longer follow-up have been published. Readers will need to consult the latest textbooks on refractive surgery and current literature to stay abreast of all of these developments.

In light of the overall scope and depth of this textbook, these points are certainly very minor. Indeed, both generalists and specialists within ophthalmology will find this work to be an invaluable resource of information for the diagnosis and management of ophthalmic diseases. In addition, the updated, extensive references at the end of each chapter will greatly facilitate the acquisition of additional knowledge by the reader.

The editors and contributors are to be congratulated for successfully completing the Herculean task of revising and updating a text of such proportions. The second edition cements Principles and Practice of Ophthalmology's place among the foremost definitive textbooks of ophthalmology.