

ATTORNEYS' TEXTBOOK
OF MEDICINE

GORDY-GRAY

3

ATTORNEYS' TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE

by

ROSCOE N. GRAY, M.D.

*Surgical Director Emeritus, Aetna Casualty and Surety
Company, Hartford, Connecticut*

THIRD EDITION

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

PETER J. BETSOS

Member of the New York Bar

LOIS L. CASWELL AND BARBARA M. SMITH

Medical Editors

VOLUME 3

(pp 51.00-66.09)

1981

(Date originally published: 1934)



**MATTHEW
BENDER**

235 E. 45th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

COPYRIGHT © 1934, 1940, 1949, 1951, 1958, 1960, 1961,
1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976,
1977, 1978, 1979

BY MATTHEW BENDER & COMPANY

INCORPORATED

All Rights Reserved

Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 50-628

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Volume 3

HENRY FREEMAN ALLEN, M.D.

Chief Ophthalmologist, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary; Henry Willard Williams Clinical Professor and Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School; Member, A.M.A., New England Ophthalmological Society, American Ophthalmological Society, American Association of Ophthalmology; Fellow, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology

MARIA ATHANS, M.D.

House Staff Physician, Parkway Hospital, Queens, N.Y., and Williamsburgh General Hospital; Staff of Anesthesiology of the Mount Sinai Hospital Services—Elmhurst City Hospital; Practice in Anesthesiology at Manhattan General Hospital; Assistant Medical Director in Charge of Research for Swiss Ethical Drug Co. "GEWO," Greece

RUDOLF L. BAER, M.D.

Professor and Chairman, Department of Dermatology, New York University Schools of Medicine; Director, Department of Dermatology, University Hospital and Skin and Cancer Unit; Director, Department of Dermatology and Syphilology, Bellevue Hospital; Former President, American Board of Dermatology; Member, A.M.A., American Dermatological Association, American College of Allergists. Society for Investigative Dermatology; Fellow, American Academy of Dermatology, American Academy of Allergy; Editor, Year Book of Dermatology

EUGENE Y. BERGER, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Director of Medical Services, Morningside House, New York City; Visiting Physician, Goldwater Memorial Hospital, Roosevelt Island, New York City; Associate Professor of Medicine, New

York University School of Medicine; Member, Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, American Federation for Clinical Research, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Alpha Omega Alpha, American Physiological Society, American Society for Clinical Investigation; Fellow, New York Heart Association, American College of Physicians

SAUL BLAU, M.D., B.S., M.Sc.

Instructor in Clinical Dermatology and Syphilology, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School; Assistant Attending Dermatologist, University Hospital, New York; Member, A.M.A., Society for Investigative Dermatology, American Academy of Dermatology, Sociedad Venezolana de Dermatologie Venerologia y Leprologia, International Society of Tropical Dermatology

HERMANN M. BURIAN, M.D.

Chief of Clinical Research and Chief Ophthalmologist, Dartmouth Eye Institute, Hanover, New Hampshire; Ophthalmological Surgeon, Carney Hospital, South Boston, Massachusetts; Professor of Ophthalmology, College of Medicine, State University of Iowa; Diplomate, American Board of Ophthalmology; Member and Former President, American Orthoptic Council; Member, American Committee on Optics and Visual Physiology, American Ophthalmological Society

JOHN MARQUIS CONVERSE, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Lawrence D. Bell Professor of Plastic Surgery, New York University School of Medicine; Director of the Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery, New York University Medical Center; Surgeon-Director of the Clinic for Reconstructive Plastic Surgery of the Face, Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, New York; Fellow, American College of Surgeons; Former President, Transplantation Society; Honorary Member, Plastic Surgery Societies of Venezuela, Brazil, and Uruguay, Societies for Plastic Surgery of Japan and Spain; Member, A.M.A., American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, American Association of Plastic Surgeons

ARTHUR GERARD DeVOE, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Director, Institute of Ophthalmology, Presbyterian Hospital, New

York; Professor and Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York; Member, A.M.A., American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, American Ophthalmological Society, Association for Research in Ophthalmology; Fellow, American College of Surgeons

ERVIN EPSTEIN, M.D.

Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology, University of California; Chief, Dermatology and Syphilology, Highland-Alameda County Hospital; Chief of Dermatology, Children's Hospital, East Bay; Staff, Peralto Hospital, Merritt Hospital, Providence Hospital; Diplomate, American Board of Dermatology and Syphilology; Member, A.M.A., American Academy of Dermatology, Society for Investigative Dermatology, American Dermatologic Association

LOUISE J. GORDY, M.D., LL.B.

Graduate of New York University-Bellevue Medical School and Loyola Law School, Los Angeles; Post-Doctoral Research in Cellular Biology; Member, California State Bar; Medical Examiner, U.S. Public Health Service Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Compensation; Private Medical Practice

TRYGVE GUNDERSEN, M.D.

Professor of Ophthalmology, The Boston University School of Medicine; Former Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School; Former Chief, Ophthalmology Service, University Hospital; Surgeon-in-Ophthalmology, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and Massachusetts General Hospital; Former Ophthalmologist-in-Chief, Children's Medical Center and Perkins School for the Blind; Consultant Ophthalmologist, Free Hospital for Women; Member, Medical Advisory Board, The American Legion; Member, Residency Review Committee, A.M.A.; Member, Committee on Ophthalmology, National Research Council; Past President, American Ophthalmological Society

M. COLEMAN HARRIS, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.A.A., F.C.C.P.

Chief of Allergy, San Francisco Polyclinic and Postgraduate College; Fellow, International Association of Allergology, American College of Chest Physicians; Member, California Society of Allergy, Allergy Association of Northern California, Allergy Foun-

dation of Northern California, California Society of Internal Medicine, American Society of Internal Medicine, International Society of Internal Medicine, Tufts University Medical Alumni Association of California, Pan-American Medical Association, British Association of Allergists, The Royal Society of Medicine

NORMAN B. KANOF, M.D., Med. Sc.D.

Associate Clinical Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology, New York University, Post-Graduate Medical School; Associate Attending Dermatologist and Syphilologist, New York University Hospital; In Charge, Allergy Section, Skin and Cancer Unit, New York University, Bellevue Medical Center; Attending Dermatologist and Director of Dermatology, New York Polyclinic Hospital; Member, A.M.A., Society for Investigative Dermatology, International Society of Tropical Dermatology, American College of Allergists, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Atlantic Dermatological Society, American Federation for Clinical Research, American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Chemotherapy; Fellow, American Academy of Dermatology

PETER CLEMENS KRONFELD, M.D.

Emeritus Professor and Head of Department of Ophthalmology, University of Illinois; Former Professor and Head of Department of Ophthalmology, Peking Union Medical College; Consultant, Indian Health Service, Public Health Service; Member, American Ophthalmological Society, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, A.M.A., Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, Institute of Medicine (Chicago), American Board of Ophthalmology, Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, Société Française d'Ophtalmologie, German Ophthalmological Society

JACOB LADENHEIM, M.D.

Attending Ophthalmologist, Oak Park Hospital, Oak Park, Illinois, Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, and Cook County Hospital; Clinical Assistant, Chicago Medical School; Member, A.M.A.; Fellow, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology

MORRIS LEIDER, M.D.

Associate Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School; Acting Visiting Phy-

sician-in-Charge, Service of Dermatology, Bellevue Hospital; Diplomate, American Board of Dermatology and Syphilology; Member, A.M.A., Society for Investigative Dermatology, American Academy of Dermatology

THEODORE G. MARTENS, M.D.

Consultant in Ophthalmology, Mayo Clinic; Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Mayo Medical School; Member, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology

FRANK W. NEWELL, M.D., M.SC. (OPHTH.)

Raymond Professor and Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Chicago; Senior Attending Surgeon, University of Chicago Hospitals; Former Chairman, American Board of Ophthalmology, Association for Research in Ophthalmology, Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology; Former President, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, Chicago Ophthalmological Society; Vice President, National Society for the Prevention of Blindness; Editor-in-Chief, American Journal of Ophthalmology; Councillor, American Ophthalmological Society, International Council of Ophthalmology

ADOLPH ROSTENBERG, JR., M.D.

Professor and Head, Department of Dermatology, University of Illinois College of Medicine; National Better Business Bureau; Member, Chicago Dermatological Society, American Dermatological Association, American Academy of Allergy, Society for Investigative Dermatology; Fellow, American Academy of Dermatology

NORMAN SHURE, M.D., M.S. (PATH.), F.A.C.P.

Associate Clinical Professor, Internal Medicine (Allergy), Loma Linda University School of Medicine; Medical Staff, Mount Sinai, Temple and White Memorial Hospitals, Consultant in Allergy, U. S. Public Health Service

DANIEL SNYDACKER, M.D.

Attending Surgeon, Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago, and University of Chicago; Director, Illinois Society for the Prevention

of Blindness; Director, National Society for the Prevention of Blindness; Clinical Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Chicago; Member, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, Association for Research in Ophthalmology, American Ophthalmological Society, Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology

HARVEY EDWARD THORPE, B.S.C., M.D., F.A.C.S.

Chief, Division of Ophthalmology, Montefiore Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Fellow, A.M.A., International College of Surgeons; Fellow and Former Vice-President, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, Association for Research in Ophthalmology, American Ophthalmological Society; President, Pittsburgh Ophthalmological Society; Former President, New York Clinical Society of Ophthalmology, New York Academy of Medicine, Société Française d'Ophthalmologie, Ophthalmological Society of United Kingdom, Sociedad Mexicana d'Oftalmologia, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Honor Member, All-India Ophthalmological Society; American Board of Ophthalmology; Faculty Member, Ophthalmological Study Council; Director of Post-Graduate Ophthalmic Courses, Montefiore Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

RICHARD L. TROUTMAN, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Attending Surgeon, New York Hospital; Surgeon Director, Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital; Professor and Head of Ophthalmology, Brooklyn Hospital; Chairman, Ophthalmic Division, Department of Surgery, Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, New York; Professor of Ophthalmology, State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn; Member, A.M.A., American Ophthalmological Society, Association for Research in Ophthalmology; Fellow, American College of Surgeons; Diplomate, American Board of Ophthalmology

VICTOR H. WITTEN, M.D.

Clinical Professor of Dermatology, University of Miami; Fellow, American College of Physicians, American Academy of Dermatology; Honorary Member, Danish Dermatological Society; Member, A.M.A., Society for Investigative Dermatology, American Dermatological Association, Alpha Omega Alpha

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME 1

Chapter	Title	Page
1	General Considerations	1-1
2	Injuries to the Musculo-Skeletal System—Fractures, Dislocations and Sprains	2-1
2A	Amputations and Replantations	2A-1
3	Injuries of the Hand	3-1
3A	Fractures, Dislocations and Sprains of the Wrist	3A-1

VOLUME 1A

4	Elbow Fractures and Dislocations	4-1
4A	Fractures of the Forearm	4A-1
5	Fractures, Dislocations, and Soft Tissue Injuries of Shoulder Girdle and Arm	5-1
6	Injuries of the Ankle and Foot Fractures, Dislocations, Sprains and Other Injuries	6-1
7	Fractures and Dislocations of the Knee	7-1
7A	Internal Derangements of the Knee and Other Soft Tissue Lesions	7A-1
7B	Fractures of the Shafts of the Tibia and Fibula	7B-1

VOLUME 1B

8	Fractures and Dislocations of the Hip	8-1
8A	Fractures and Dislocations of the Pelvis	8A-1
8B	Fractures and Dislocations of the Shaft of the Femur ..	8B-1
9	Chest Injuries: General Considerations	9-1
9A	Injuries of the Ribs and Chest Wall	9A-1
9B	Intrapleural Lesions	9B-1
9C	Lung Injuries	9C-1
9D	Injuries of the Trachea, Bronchi and Esophagus	9D-1
9E	Injuries of the Heart	9E-1
9F	Diaphragmatic and Thoracoabdominal Injuries	9F-1
10	Facial Injuries	10-1

Chapter Title	Page
10A Whiplash Injuries	10A-1
10B The Pharynx	10B-1
11 The Vertebral Column: Anatomy	11-1
13 Fractures and Dislocations of the Cervical Spine	13-1
13A Fractures and Dislocations of the Dorsolumbar Spine ..	13A-1
13B Fractures and Dislocations of the Sacrum and Coccyx ..	13B-1
14 Spinal Cord Injuries	14-1

VOLUME 1C

15 The Intervertebral Disc	15-1
16 Fat Embolism	16-1
17 Developmental Defects	17-1
18 Structure and Physiology of Bone	18-1
18A Metabolic Disease of Bone	18A-1
18B Paget's Disease	18B-1
18C Aseptic Necrosis and Osteochondritis	18C-1
18D Osteomyelitis and Other Bone Infections	18D-1
18E Congenital Bone Dystrophies	18E-1
18F Fibrocystic Disease of Bone	18F-1
18G Bone Tumors	18G-1
19 Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases	19-1
19A Infectious Arthritis	19A-1
19B Rheumatoid Arthritis	19B-1
19C Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis	19C-1
19D Ankylosing Spondylitis	19D-1
19E Osteoarthritis	19E-1
19F Traumatic Arthritis	19F-1
19G Gout	19G-1
20 Burns	20-1
21 Injuries to Veins: Venous Thrombosis, Phlebothrombosis, Thrombophlebitis	21-1
21A Penetrating Injuries of the Neck	21A-1
22 Aneurysms	22-1
24 Electrical Injuries	24-1
29 Death	29-1
29A Brain Death	29A-1
30 Heart Disease	30-1

VOLUME 2

32 Infectious Diseases: Glossary and Table of Contents	32-1
33 Infectious Diseases: General Considerations	33-1
34 Pathogenic Microorganisms: Classification	34-1
35 Modes of Spread and Transmission of Infectious	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

v

Chapter Title	Page
Diseases: Role of Insects, Birds, Domestic and Wild Animals	35-1
36 Identification of Microorganisms: Diagnostic Tests	36-1
37 Infections of the Respiratory System	37-1
38 Infections of Gastrointestinal Tract and Liver	38-1
39 Infections of the Genito-Urinary Tract	39-1
40 Infections of the Nervous System	40-1
41 Infections of the Musculo-Skeletal System (Bones, Joints, Tendons, and Muscles)	41-1
42 Infections of the Cardiovascular System	42-1
43 Infections of the Eye	43-1
44 Infections and Infectious Diseases Involving Skin, Subcutaneous Soft Tissues, and Lymph Nodes	44-1
45 Systemic Infections and Infectious Diseases	45-1
47 Infectious Diseases: Antibiotics and Drug Therapy	47-1
48 Venoms, Bites, and Stings of Reptiles, Insects and Other Anthropods, Marine Life	48-1

VOLUME 3

51	Problems in the Evaluation of Ocular Injuries	51-1
51A	Traumatic Injuries to the Eye	51A-1
52	Conjunctiva—Injuries and Diseases	52-1
52A	Lacrimal Apparatus Disorders	52A-1
53	Uveal Tract Diseases	53-1
53A	Cornea: Diseases and Injuries	53A-1
53B	Diseases of the Sclera	53B-1
54	Eyelids	54-1
54A	Diplopia	54A-1
55	Strabismus	55-1
55A	Errors of Refraction	55A-1
55B	Glaucoma	55B-1
56A	Ocular Prostheses	56A-1
57	Retinal Detachment	57-1
58	Anesthesia	58-1
59A	Alcoholism	59A-1
60	Anemia	60-1
61	Buerger's Disease	661
62	Cataract	681
63	Compressed Air Disease	753
64A	Electric Shock Therapy	780.1
65	Allergy	65-1
65A	Eczematous Contact Dermatitis	65A-1
65B	Atopic Dermatitis	65B-1
65C	Hypersensitivity to Physical Agents	65C-1
65D	Scars, Scarring Diseases and Pits	65D-1

Chapter Title	Page
65E Repair of Scars	65E-1
65F Dermatitis Medicamentosa	65F-1
65G Sarcoidosis	65G-1
65H Tuberculosis of the Skin	65H-1
65I Foreign Body Granulomas	65I-1
65J Cancers and Precancers of the Skin	65J-1
66 Hodgkins Disease	795

VOLUME 3A

67	Hydrocele	803
68	Pterygium	813
69	Radiation Injuries	69-1
70	X-Ray	839
71	Radiodermatitis	859
72	Trauma and Cancer	72-1
74	Diabetes Mellitus	74-1
75	Diabetes Insipidus	75-1
76	Hypoglycemia	76-1
77	Thyroid Gland Disease	77-1
80	The Nervous System: Introduction	80-1
81	Attorneys' Check List for Injuries to the Nervous System	81-1
82	The Nervous System: Anatomy and Function	82-1
83	Higher Level Integrated Functions of the Brain Consciousness, Memory, Ideation and Speech	83-1
84	The Cranial Nerves and Organs of Special Sense	84-1
84A	Impaired Hearing	84A-1
85	Neurological Examination	85-1
86	Ear Diseases	86-1
88	Head Injuries: General Considerations	88-1

VOLUME 3B

89	Skull and Scalp Injuries: Skull Fractures	89-1
90	Brain Injuries: Concussion, Contusion and Lacerations—Their Complications and Sequelae	90-1
91	Traumatic Intracranial Hemorrhage and Hematoma: Non-Traumatic Cerebrovascular Disease	91-1
92	Convulsive Disorders: Traumatic and Non-Traumatic Epilepsy	92-1
92A	Head Injuries: Diagnosis of Sequelae	92A-1
100	Peripheral Nerve Injuries	100-1
101	Personality and Behavior Changes Following Trauma	101-1
102	Post-Traumatic Psychoses	102-1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

vii

Chapter Title	Page
103 Physical Therapies in Psychiatry	103-1
104 The Emotional-Traumatic Reactions	104-1

VOLUME 4

129 The Battered Child Syndrome	129-1
130 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	130-1
131 Introduction to Toxicology	131-1
132 Toxicology of Specific Substances	132-1
133 Drinking, Driving, and Chemical Testing	133-1
176 Pain and Painful Syndromes	176-1
177 Treatment of Pain	177-1
178 Psychiatric Aspects of Pain	178-1
179 Medical Records	179-1
180 Analysis of Physical Examination Reports	180-1
181 Evaluation of Permanent Physical Impairment	181-1
182 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	182-1

VOLUME 4A

201 Hemoptysis	201-1
202 Bronchiectasis and Bronchiolectasis	202-1
203 The Pneumonias	203-1
204 Bronchitis and Emphysema	204-1
205 Pneumoconiosis	205-1
205A Silicosis	205A-1
205B Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis	205B-1
205C Asbestosis	205C-1
205D Berylliosis	205D-1
205E Byssinosis	205E-1
206 Anoxia	206-1
207 Diseases and Injuries to the Trachea	207-1
208 Hemothorax	208-1
220 Injuries to Abdominal Viscera	220-1
220A Peritonitis	220A-1
220B Subphrenic Abscess	220B-1
221 Spleen	221-1
222 Hernia	222-1
223 Stomach Diseases	223-1
224 Peptic Ulcers	224-1
225 Esophageal Diseases	225-1
226 Gallbladder and Bile Ducts	226-1
227 Liver	227-1
228 The Pancreas	228-1
229 Rectum	229-1

Chapter Title	Page
230 Anus	230-1
252 Hemorrhage	252-1
253 Hematoma	253-1
285 Bladder—Injuries and Diseases	285-1
286 Ureter and Kidney Injuries and Diseases	286-1

VOLUME 4B

287 Tuberculosis of the Female Genital Tract	287-1
288 Disorders of the Fallopian Tubes	288-1
290 Uterus and Cervix	290-1
291 Disorders of the Vulva, Vagina, Urethra, and Hymen ..	291-1
292 Injuries to the Perineum	292-1
293 Menopause and Climacteric	293-1
294 Frigidity and Dyspareunia	294-1
295 Menstrual Disorders and Abnormal Uterine Bleeding ..	295-1
296 Ovarian Diseases	296-1
301 Impotence	301-1
302 Disorders of the Penis and Scrotum	302-1
302A The Prostate Gland	302A-1
303 Aerotitis Media	3143
303A Aviation Medicine	303A-1
304 Rh Factor	3219
305 Pregnancy	305-1
306 Labor and Delivery	306-1
307 Forceps Delivery	307-1
308 Cesarean Section	308-1
309 Obstetric Analgesia and Anesthesia	309-1
310 Puerperium	310-1
311 Abortion	311-1
312 Breast Diseases	312-1

VOLUME 5

Anatomical Transparencies	AT-1
---------------------------------	------

VOLUME 6

Anatomical Transparencies	AT-261
---------------------------------	--------

VOLUME 7

Anatomical Transparencies	AT-633
---------------------------------	--------

INDEX VOLUMES

Chapter 51

PROBLEMS IN THE EVALUATION OF OCULAR INJURIES

NATURE OF THE PROBLEM ¶ 51.00	TREATMENT ¶ 51.20
HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EX- AMINATION ¶ 51.10	SPECIFIC SITUATIONS ¶ 51.30
Significance of History ¶ 51.11	Superficial Foreign Bodies ¶ 51.31
Significance of Physical Examination ¶ 51.12	Intraocular Foreign Bodies ¶ 51.32
Evaluation of Circumstances ¶ 51.13	Chemical Injuries ¶ 51.33
	CONSULTATIONS AND REFER- RALS ¶ 51.40
	BIBLIOGRAPHY ¶ 51.50

¶ 51.00 NATURE OF PROBLEM

It should be apparent that the skill with which a non-ophthalmologist can evaluate an ocular injury varies with the individual and the nature of the injury. There are inevitable limitations related to training, experience, and available equipment. The limits cannot be defined in the abstract, but it is reasonable to assume that the non-ophthalmologist will proceed with suitable caution in view of his incomplete ability to deal with ocular trauma.

Essentially, conditions are such that ocular emergencies cannot always be evaluated under ideal circumstances. Often, a patient must be screened before a specialist is consulted, and a burden is placed upon the non-ophthalmologist to determine which cases he is not able or equipped to handle. The process is not infallible and breakdowns in the system are likely to reflect the fact that, with regard to ocular injuries, things frequently are not what they seem. Appreciation of this fact breeds caution and, with a reasonable degree of caution on the part of the non-ophthalmologist, damaging consequences of significant oversights are likely to be minimized.

The theme of caution is stressed in the medical literature. Advice to the non-ophthalmologist varies depending upon the

author, the condition being discussed and the intended audience. Certainly, for apparent serious injuries, a “hands off” policy probably is best although there are related situations where something can and should be done prior to the time a specialist examines the patient. Such an approach must be tempered by the reality of the circumstances under which an injury arises and can be managed. Further, it assumes that a serious injury exists, a determination not always apparent to the non-ophthalmologist. He is offered guidelines in the literature with regard to diagnosis and treatment, but this cannot diminish the significance of the observation that every ocular injury, including those which appear trivial, is potentially serious.

What, then, can be expected of the non-ophthalmologist confronted with a patient who has suffered ocular trauma? Should he be held to standards of performance based upon articles in the literature addressed to non-ophthalmologists? In what ways are his history and physical examination significant? What are the goals of his evaluation? What types of ocular trauma routinely are handled by the non-ophthalmologist? When should he seek a consultation and how long may the consultation safely be delayed? How should the ophthalmologist respond to the non-ophthalmologists’s request for assistance? The purpose of this chapter is to examine aspects of these and related questions in the hope that an attorney concerned with a specific case will appreciate the subtleties involved.

¶ 51.10 HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

The ability of a non-ophthalmologist to evaluate and treat an injured eye naturally depends upon his training, experience, and equipment. Here, it is assumed that they are not the equivalent of the expertise and facilities offered by the average ophthalmologist. Analogies to other fields of medicine and surgery can be drawn. The thorough examination of a traumatized eye requires knowledge and technical skills foreign to most non-ophthalmologists, however, and their sensi-