

NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY

By

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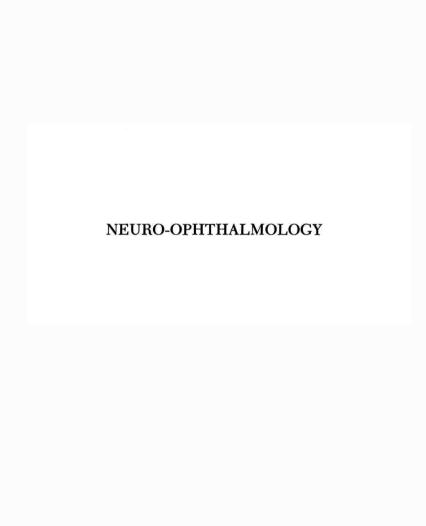
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PREFACE

"IN RECENT YEARS the ophthalmic surgeon, the earliest surgical specialist, and the neurosurgeon, the latest, have from opposite directions come to meet at the barrier of the optic foramen—each somewhat hesitant to trespass on the other's field of work. They, however, have much to learn from one another and between them an answer should be forthcoming to the moot questions."

"The ophthalmic surgeon because of his ability to restore sight to the blind holds a high position in popular esteem. But ophthalmologists have traditionally restricted their surgical field to the orbit and have not ventured to pursue to their source the disorders of vision whose causes lie within the skull. Had they so pursued the source of choked disc or the source and causes of the primary optic atrophies, they might well enough have long preceded the neurosurgeon in those tasks which permit him to share in the gratifying occupation of restoring vision."

I know of no better introduction to the second edition of this book than to quote these two very appropriate passages from the writings of Harvey Cushing.

Though neuro-ophthalmology was generally neglected by the ophthalmologist it has gained great impetus in the last few years as witness the current programs, discussions, papers and books on the subject. The ophthalmologist has awakened to the fact that the eye is a projection of the brain which has perforce moved toward the surface in order to contact light and perceive images of the outer world. He also has taken cognizance of the fact that the blood supply and drainage is also by way of the cranial cavity. He is aware that the eye is frequently influenced by, and reflects, the various affections of the central nervous system.

Although several excellent treatises on neuro-ophthalmology have been published since the first edition of this book, I feel that certain phases of this comprehensive subject should be further stressed or discussed more in detail, together with recent advances in investigation, and clinical concepts.

In this edition basic knowledge of the subject is further amplified. I feel that pertinent data concerning the anatomy, with histologic detail when necessary and with outline of the normal function of these structures, is imperative for better understanding.

This should be supplemented by a knowledge of pathologic processes, with histo-pathologic studies when necessary, and with detailed investigation of the dysfunction produced. Presenting the material in this manner will be the endeavor throughout this book.

To many, I am indebted and deeply grateful. Soon after the first edition was

¹ Harvey Cushing and Louise Eisenhart: *Meningiomas*. Springfield, Charles C Thomas, 1938, p. 283.

² Harvey Cushing: Intracranial Tumors. Springfield, Charles C Thomas, 1932, pp. 69-70.

published Percival Bailey suggested improvements for a second edition, and with his usual painstaking detail noted the changes he would suggest. These suggestions have been carried out. Frank Mayfield and his associates, Edward Lotspeich and Curwood Hunter, have furnished clinical material and invesigative help in abounding and continuous amount. A number of the illustrations are from their cases.

Joseph Evans has granted me many privileges in the Division of Neurosurgery. Many of the new illustrations are from his division. I have profited by histopathologic studies with Mark Scheinker and have used illustrations from his publications. Alphonse Vonderahe continues his help as he did with my first effort. Many of the old illustrations were culled from his collection. Howard McIntyre has provided a constant source of knowledge and material.

Joseph Homan, Director of the Department of Medical Arts, has given unstintingly of his great ability toward improving the illustrations. Elsworth Cochran and other members of the department have continued their aid. Miss Beatrice Woods, Mrs. Nancy Burnham Johnson and Mrs. Margaret Cook have provided outstanding illustrations.

Indexing of over 3200 bibliographic references, begun by Mrs. Carmenina Tomassini was continued by Lynn Zipin. Mrs. Tomassini helped with translation.

Preparation of the manuscript for the second edition, begun by Mrs. Kathleen Allen, has been continued and finished by Miss Dorothy Roberts. I wish to thank Mrs. Robert C. Nelson for help with the index.

Once more it is my pleasure to acknowledge my gratitude to Charles C Thomas and efficient staff for continuing their friendly offices in the production of this second edition.

D. J. L.

CONTENTS

Chapter I	
THE VISUAL SYSTEM—THE RETINA Embryology Anatomy Physiology Clinical Application	3 3 5 8 10
Chapter II	
THE VISUAL SYSTEM—THE OPTIC NERVE Structure Papillitis Optic Neuritis Retrobulbar Neuritis Toxic Amblyopia Papilledema Optic Atrophy	13 13 17 17 20 26 32 36
Chapter III	
The Visual System (continued) Optic Chiasm Optic Tract Lateral Geniculate Body Optic Radiations Visual Field Studies	41 45 48 49 56
Chapter IV	
THE VISUAL SYSTEM (continued) STRUCTURES OF THE VISUAL CORTEX AND ASSOCIATION TRACTS AND AREAS Visuo-Sensory Area Visuo-Psychic Areas Higher Psychic and Association Areas Hallucinations and Illusions Cortical Lesions Aphasias Functional Affections—Hysteria, Neurasthenia, Malingery	62 69 70 73 74 76 77 80
Chapter V	
THE OCULOGYRIC SYSTEM Conjugate Eye Movements Binocular Vision Supranuclear Centers and Tracts The Voluntary Oculogyric System Horizontal Component	88 88 89 93 94

Internuclear Component	106 106 108 115
Chapter VI	
Midbrain Posterior Longitudinal Bundle Light Reflexes Emergency Light Reflexes Blinking Reflexes Fixation Reflexes Accommodation and Convergence	122 126 132 134 136 136 136
Chapter VII	
Oculomotor Nucleus and Nerve	149 150 162 163
Chapter VIII	
The Sensory Nerve of the Eye, Orbit and Eyelids (Triceminal Nerve) Anatomy (distribution)	172 172 180 185 186
Chapter IX	
The Motor Nerve to the Eyelids and Brow (Facial Nerve) Anatomy (distribution) Facial Paralysis Intermediate Nerve of Wrisberg (parasympathetic) Hunt's Syndrome	191 191 194 196 197
Chapter X	
THE AUDITORY NERVES (ACOUSTIC AND VESTIBULAR) Acoustic Division Vestibular Division Nystagmus Vestibular Ocular	200 200 201 205 206 211 216

•
1X

Chapter XI	
The Autonomic Nervous System Anatomy (distribution) Sympathetic Division Parasympathetic Division The Pupil Argyll Robertson Pupil Holmes-Adie Tonic Pupil Horner's Syndrome Claude Bernard's Syndrome See Chapter VIII for Trophic Nervous System See Chapter IX for Parasympathetic Nerve of Wrisberg	219 219 224 226 231 232 233 234
Chapter XII	
The Arterial Vascular System of Brain and Eye Anatomy (distribution) Vascular Disturbances Arteriosclerosis Atherosclerosis (Atheroma) Retinopathy in Arteriosclerosis Arteriolar Sclerosis in Hypertension Malignant Hypertension Renal Retinopathies Diabetic Retinopathies Other Types of Vascular Involvement Hemorrhage Thrombosis Embolism Aneurysm	240 240 252 253 262 263 265 268 272 277 282 290 294
Chapter XIII	
The Venous Vascular System of Brain, Eye and Orbit Anatomy (distribution) Venous Sclerosis, Thrombosis and Hemorrhage Cavernous Sinus Affections	307 307 315 320
Chapter XIV	
The Cerebrospinal Fluid System of the Brain Anatomy (distribution) Hydrocephalus Porencephaly	325 325 332 338
Chapter XV	
Meningitis and Brain Abscess General Pathology	342 342

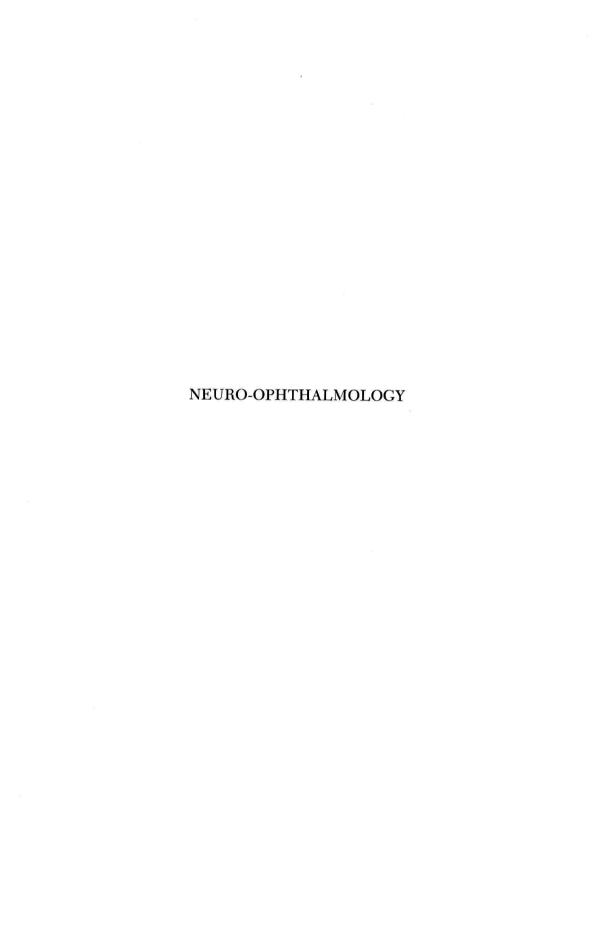
Tuberculous Meningitis Meningococcic (epidemic) Meningitis Purulent Meningitis Syphilitic Meningitis Other Types of Meningitis Chiasmatic Arachnoiditis Chronic Leptomeningitis Brain Abscess	345 347 347 349 351 353 357
Chapter XVI	
ENCEPHALITIS Purulent Encephalitis Nonpurulent Encephalitis (lethargic) Encephalomyelitis Toxoplasmic Encephalitis Encephalopathies Including Lead and Alcohol Superior Hemorrhagic Encephalitis	362 362 365 366 368 370
Chapter XVII	
The Demyelinating Disorders Multiple Sclerosis (Disseminated Sclerosis) Diffuse Periaxial Encephalitis (Schilder) Neuromyelitis Optica (Devic) Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis	376 376 383 385 386
Chapter XVIII	
Syphilis of the Central Nervous System	389 389 394 396 397
Chapter XIX	
Structures Involved	400 400 403
Chapter XX	
Concussion Contusion Laceration Compression Hemorrhages	419 419 422 423 425 425 427

Contents	X
Conjugate Deviation of Eyes Cerebral Localization Skull Fractures Complications Convalescence and Sequelae	428 429 431 434 435
Chapter XXI	
Tumors of the Retina Retinoblastoma Secondary Retinal Involvement from Melanoma, Carcinoma and Sarcoma Phakomatoses	438 439 448 450
Chapter XXII	
Tumors of the Optic Nerve Glioma Meningiomas (Endotheliomas) Neurofibromatosis—von Recklinghausen Tumors of the Orbit	455 457 457 459 462
Chapter XXIII	
Intracranial Tumors General Symptoms Local and Focal Symptoms Glioma Meningiomas Vascular Tumors Pituitary (Hypophyseal) Tumors Craniopharyngioma Cholesteatoma and Chordoma Pinealoma	465 467 467 472 481 484 492 496
Tumors of the Cerebral Hemispheres Frontal Lobe Temporal Lobe	498 499 501
Parietal Lobe Occipital Lobe Corpus Callosum Thalamus	505 505 508 510
Lateral Ventricles Third Ventricle Fourth Ventricle	511 514 518
Midbrain Pons Cerebellum	519 521 521
Cerebellopontine Angle	525

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v	1	1	
А	1	1	

NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY

Cranial Nerves	527
Infrequent and Metastatic Tumors	529
Chapter XXIV	
SYNDROMES WHICH INCLUDE EYE SYMPTOMS	533
Aphasic Syndromes	533
Foster Kennedy Syndrome	535
Meningioma Syndromes	538
Syndrome of the Pituitary (Hypophyseal) Adenoma	541
Carotid Syndrome	543
Chiasmal Syndrome	543
Cavernous Sinus Syndrome	543
Syndrome of the Epithalamus (Pineal)	547
Syndrome of the Hypothalamus	547
Syndrome of the Posterior Thalamus	549
Syndrome of Paralysis of Lateral Gaze	549
Syndrome of Dissociation of Lateral Gaze	552
Syndrome of Paralysis of Vertical Gaze	557
Central Tegmental Syndrome	557
Unilateral Tegmental Syndrome	559
Pontine Syndromes	562
Cerebellopontine Angle Syndrome	564
Sympathetic Syndromes	567
APPENDIX-HISTOLOGY	573
Cerebral Cortex	573
Retina	575
Neuroglia of the Brain	575
Neuroglia of the Retina	576
Cytology	577
Pathologic Histology	578
Neuronal Reaction	578
Reaction of Pigment Epithelium of the Retina	579
Neuroglial Reaction	579
Vascular Reaction	580
Cerebrospinal Fluid Reaction	581
INDEX	500



CHAPTER I

THE VISUAL SYSTEM-THE RETINA

In the lowest forms of animal life unicellular or multicellular organisms have the faculty, localized or scattered throughout the entire protoplasm, of sensitivity to light. The amoeba, when placed in a bright light with an adjacent area of darkness, will project its pseudopodia and, upon finding the dark area which corresponds more to its habitat, move into it. The earthworm, among other dark-adapted organisms, possesses the same expression of negative phototropism. Higher forms increasingly localize and develop the response to light perception in certain surface areas or spots—other areas losing this faculty. Eyes of invertebrates may go so far as to develop surface plate, pit or cup formation even to the development of a lens system.

When the vertebrate level is achieved, the control of vision is shifted from the surface to the central nervous system. In lower forms of vertebrates the light penetrates the transparent surface and deeper tissues to reach the photoreceptors in the primitive central nervous system. As evolution proceeds pigment appears and size increases, necessitating the growth of the photosensitive portion of the central nervous system to the surface to meet the light which is unable to penetrate. This is the beginning of the primitive eye, the photoreceptor maintaining its association with the brain of which it is a part (1) (Fig. 1).

As evolution continues the flat boss or ocular plate is indented and cupped and becomes recessed in the head or fore end of the body. Further development constricts the cup margin, fills the chamber with transparent substance and the rim with a primitive lens. Over this the surface becomes transparent to form the cornea. Muscles develop outside the eye to move it to better position for vision and inside the eye to control the size of the pupil and the focus of the lens. Eyelids and other accessory structures are added along with further development of the retina in the interest of better vision.

Embryologic development follows a similar pattern. The development of the human eye, a good example of the vertebrate eye, proceeds through analogous stages. From the fore end of the fore brain the optic vesicle pushes out until it makes contact with the surface ectoderm. It then, having incited the formation of the lens vesicle from its surface contact, invaginates into a two-layered optic cup attached to the fore brain by a tube, the optic stalk, through which, later in development, the axons comprising the optic nerve will pass to the brain. The lens vesicle follows the formation of the optic cup and closely fills the cup margin. The inner layer of the optic cup develops into the layers of the retina from which the optic nerve fibers pass to the brain. The outer layer of the optic cup becomes the pigment layer of the retina (Fig. 2). The lens becomes solid by accretion and from it and the retina the primary vitreous forms. The cornea

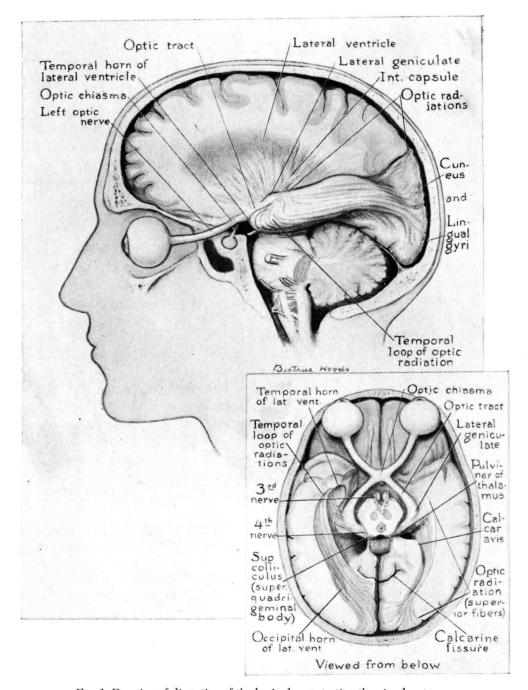


Fig. 1. Drawing of dissection of the brain demonstrating the visual system.

is derived from the surface ectoderm. In this manner the refractive media and the photoreceptive neurons are developed. Other tissues and structures form around this visual matrix to perfect its function (3).

It is necessary to remember that the human eye is the end organ or peripheral receptor, in this case photoreceptor, developed as a projection of the brain with which it is connected by an association tract, the optic nerve and its extensions. To this photoreceptor organ of neuro-ectodermal origin, other structures have been added to improve vision. Through development the primitive visual receptor has been recessed into an orbital cavity for protection and a refractive

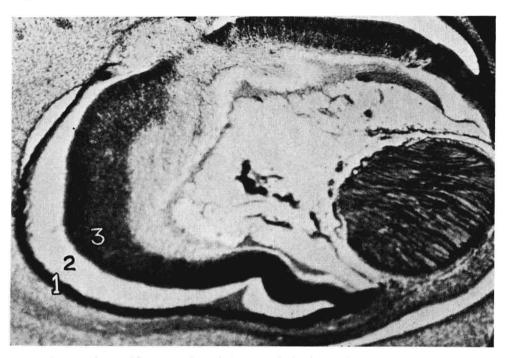


Fig. 2. Section of eye of human embryo (77 mm. early fetal period) showing closing of primary optic vesicle. 1. Outer pigment layer of optic cup. 2. Closing cleft of primary optic vesicle. 3. Inner differentiating retinal layer of optic cup.

system from somatic surface ectoderm has been developed and placed before it for better vision. This transparent media is composed of the cornea and lens, the aqueous and vitreous. Finally, the organ has been endowed with movement and the ability to focus. The walls have been given support and an elaborate blood supply has been developed from the mesodermal elements to provide exceptional nourishment. All of this to accomplish better vision.

The photoreceptors of the retina, those cells which react to light, form and color, are the rods and the cones (Fig. 3). These structures are based upon a thin external limiting membrane through which the rods send fibers to their nuclei in the outer nuclear layer. No space separates the cones from their