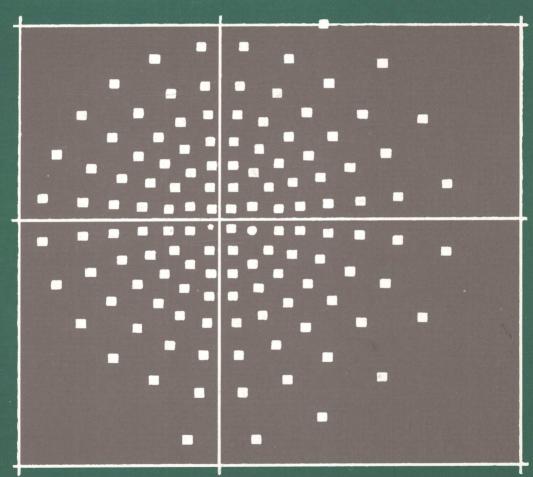
OPHTHALMIC CLINICAL DEBATES



THOMAS A. DEUTSCH

OPHTHALMIC CLINICAL DEBATES

NOT FOR RESALE

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FOREWORD .

When we risk no contradiction, It prompts the tongue to deal in fiction.

John Gay

Thomas Deutsch has produced a fine book that covers contemporary issues in a comprehensive and fascinating fashion. The format stimulates thought and, one can be certain, discussion. Rather than chapters, the book consists of "cases" that have been cleverly chosen to represent the major therapeutic challenges we all face today. With each case presentation, Dr. Deutsch provides us with a fine summary of the problems and the solutions promulgated by his two or more experts. He has chosen his contributors well and they are all comfortable with their respective points of view. This splendid format provides us with interesting debate and a wealth of information.

Our science continues to progress by "exponential" leaps, while most of us cope best with "linear" progression. Rapid change is bound to bring controversy, as practitioners explore new ways of doing things that a few short years ago could only have been imagined. It is thus appropriate that the editor of this splendid text utilizes the debate format. Such a risky undertaking, however, necessitates a bringing together of the best our specialty has to offer. This task was not easy for our editor, but he has accomplished it in grand fashion. Dr. Deutsch has assembled a stellar group of clinicians and surgeons who describe their approaches to specific problems in patient management. The editor has wisely chosen cases that represent a broad range of clinical problems. The two approaches invariably provide information that is both concise and yet complete. The summary, however, is the strength of the problem-oriented text, for it directs us to the controversy and whets our appetite for the debate and final understanding.

xviii Foreword

We should "decide all controversies by infallible artillery" but suffice to say, we cannot. The cannoneers are too strong and the battlefield mined with the idiosyncrasies of a multitude of diseases. Dr. Deutsch, however, plays the Greek god and sets in motion the giants of our specialty. Under his careful direction, they grapple with the problems we all face daily in our offices and hospitals. The result, while perhaps frustrating to some who would have but one answer to the most complex of problems, is like a breath of fresh air to those who would think, and work, and move with confidence into the next century. Dr. Deutsch, we who are certain of only one thing, that the future holds change and that our patients will best benefit from fair and honest debate, salute you and your fine chronicle.

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PREFACE

Each of us, in the course of everyday practice, is confronted by clinical situations that make us wonder what the "experts" would do. This book is intended to address those questions by providing two different viewpoints to the management of a series of clinical problems.

Because of the unusual format presented in this book, it will be helpful to understand the way in which it was constructed. As the editor, I chose the topics to be covered, wrote the case reports, invited the contributors, and produced the summary that appears with each case. All of these cases are common problems, in most instances derived from my own experience or practice.

Each contributor was invited to write about a specific case and was given some guidelines with respect to the approach I wished him to take. No contributor was given the identity of the other individual responding to that case, nor the guidelines that were given to the other contributor. For purposes of generating a debate, contributors were asked to stick to the guidelines as much as possible. Many of these "debates" were manufactured for the purpose of making interesting reading, and to give the reader more opinions to choose from. Therefore, as would be expected, in some cases the experts disagreed while in others they agreed so thoroughly that there was no actual debate. In each case, however, we do have two approaches.

The inclusion of many authors means that many writing styles, as well as many management approaches, are found in this book. We purposely have not tried to "smooth" the styles by heavily editing the submissions. In most cases you will read the opinions exactly as they arrived, as though you had called the expert on the telephone to solicit advice.

xx Preface

These cases are a potpourri of common ocular problems. It is hoped that these *Ophthalmic Clinical Debates* will be of interest and help to those at all levels of training and practice.

Thomas A. Deutsch, M.D.