

SYSTEM OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

EDITED BY

SIR STEWART DUKE-ELDER

VOL. VII

THE FOUNDATIONS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

HEREDITY
PATHOLOGY
DIAGNOSIS
AND THERAPEUTICS

WITH 471 ILLUSTRATIONS AND 11 COLOURED PLATES

LONDON

HENRY KIMPTON

1962

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SYSTEM OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

THE proposed scheme for the " System of Ophthalmology " is as follows, but its division into different volumes is liable to alteration.

- Vol. I. THE EYE IN EVOLUTION
- Vol. II. THE ANATOMY OF THE VISUAL APPARATUS
- Vol. III. NORMAL AND ABNORMAL DEVELOPMENT
- Vol. IV. THE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE EYE AND OF VISION
- Vol. V. OPHTHALMIC OPTICS AND REFRACTION
- Vol. VI. OCULAR MOTILITY AND CONCOMITANT STRABISMUS
- Vol. VII. THE FOUNDATIONS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
HEREDITY, PATHOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS AND
THERAPEUTICS
- Vol. VIII. DISEASES OF THE OUTER EYE
CONJUNCTIVA, CORNEA AND SCLERA
- Vol. IX. DISEASES OF THE UVEAL TRACT AND RETINA
- Vol. X. DISEASES OF THE OCULAR MEDIA
LENS, VITREOUS, PARASITES
- Vol. XI. GLAUCOMA
- Vol. XII. NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY
- Vol. XIII. THE OCULAR ADNEXA
LIDS, LACRIMAL APPARATUS, ORBIT AND PARA-ORBITAL
STRUCTURES
- Vol. XIV. INJURIES
- Vol. XV. SYSTEMIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND GENERAL
INDEX

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PREFACE

THE physical ills to which all of us fall a prey are derived from two sets of circumstances—the hereditary characters handed down to us by our forebears and the stresses and dangers of the environment wherein we find ourselves. Even were the latter uniformly favourable, the constitution inherited by all organisms which have the satisfaction of reproducing themselves by sexual processes ordains that each suffers decay and death after a period so that room is made for a new generation of potentially greater evolutionary value. The ultimate cause and nature of all disease are thus included within the confines of Heredity and Pathology. And when we are faced with illness it must, if possible, first be diagnosed and then be treated. These four subjects—Heredity, Pathology, Diagnosis and Therapeutics—therefore constitute the Foundations of Ophthalmology which form the basic groundwork of the subsequent volumes of this *System*.

Apart from these considerations, economy of time and space is attained by the preliminary study of these four general subjects before the individual diseases of the eye are topographically discussed in later volumes. It saves much reiteration of detail if the main types of hereditary transmission and the fundamental pathology of disease-processes are already understood in a general sense ; all that is subsequently required is to describe how these basic processes are modified in their impact upon each particular case. To discuss once and for all the methods of diagnosis in clinical use, some of which are complicated, as well as the underlying principles of therapeutics—the indications and contra-indications, the dosage and the manner of application of the various drugs and techniques—is more economic than endless repetitions.

Incidentally, it may seem strange that this volume, the seventh in the series, is brought out before some of its predecessors ; the reason is that it would appear that the greatest need is for the rewriting of the clinical sections of my *Text-Book* which have long been out of print, and this volume should logically precede them.

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