BOOK REVIEW

Pediatric Neuro-Ophthalmology, Third Edition, by Michael C. Brodsky. New York, Springer, 2016, XXI + 823 pages, 294 illustrations, 146 colour illustrations. \$249.00, ISBN: 978-1-4939-3384-8 (hardback); \$189.00, eISBN: 978-1-4939-3384-6, (e-book)

The Foreword of the text was written by Dr. Craig Hoyt, an esteemed paediatric neuro-ophthalmologist. The first two paragraphs of the Foreword, which I am in complete agreement, read as follows:

Pediatric Neuro-Ophthalmology by Michael Brodsky is the undisputed reference resource on this important and, at times, challenging topic. The previous two editions were examples of masterful compression of the information without sacrificing clarity or scholarly attention to detail. Remarkably, the third edition has surpassed the high standards established by the previous editions. While the book has grown in size to over 800 pages, the text remains concise yet all-inclusive. It is well organized, and the excellent detailed index facilitates search of even minute details about common, as well as rare disorders.

At a time when most medical textbooks are edited by several authorities and authored by many more, it is noteworthy that Brodsky is the sole author of this book. The resulting continuity in style and detail makes for a text that flows seamlessly from one topic to the next; it is a pleasure to read. The author's uniform attention to and command of detail in all the chapters is, therefore, even more remarkable. The breath of the reference list at the end of each chapter testifies to the author's commitment to providing the reader with a detailed discussion of all aspects of pediatric neuro-ophthalmology and related topics.

In the final paragraph of the Preface, Dr. Brodsky writes:

T. S. Eliot asked "Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?" My goal in rewriting this book one last time is to preserve the clinical wisdom that would otherwise be lost in the midst of time. To this end, I have made a conscious decision to retain old references which, even when obsolete, give the reader a historical context to judge the role of seminal contributions in accelerating the evolution of our knowledge over time. Charcot is quoted as saying: "Disease is very old, and nothing about it has changed. It is we who change as we learn to recognize what was formerly imperceptible." Hopefully, this book will accomplish this ambitious goal for the readers.

The text is divided into 11 sections or chapters. These are as follows:

- (1) The Apparently Blind Infant
- (2) Congenital Optic Nerve Anomalies
- (3) The Swollen Optic Disc in Children

- (4) Optic Atrophy in Children
- (5) Transient, Unexplained, and Psychogenic Visual Loss in Children
- (6) Ocular Motor Nerve Palsies in Children
- (7) Complex Ocular Motility Disorders in Children
- (8) Nystagmus in Children
- (9) Torticollis and Head Oscillations
- (10) Neuro-Ophthalmologic Manifestations of Neurodegenerative Disease in Children
- (11) Neuro-Ophthalmologic Manifestations of Systemic and Intracranial Disease

The text contains 146 colour illustrations, many of which are fundus photographs. These are uniformly excellent. As to be expected, a number of computed tomography (CT) scans and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans are included as well.

This is a remarkable book. It is a text that should be included in every neuro-ophthalmologist's library, particularly since Dr. Brodsky states in the Preface that there will be no fourth edition. This has been to a certain degree a labour of love for Dr. Brodsky. I recall chatting with him at the European neuro-ophthalmology meeting in Slovenia. All of sudden, he excused himself so he could make a quick note and not forget a clinical pearl that he had learned at the meeting and wished to include in the book.

Arguably, the most important textbook ever published in the field of neuro-ophthalmology was the classic third edition of *Clinical Neuro-Ophthalmology* by Walsh and Hoyt. In many ways, the third edition of *Pediatric Neuro-Ophthalmology* compares favourably with the third edition of *Clinical Neuro-Ophthalmology* and is destined to be a classic as well.

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