

**THE  
OPHTHALMOLOGY OF  
GENERAL PRACTICE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649172238

The ophthalmology of general practice by Malcolm L. Hepburn

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

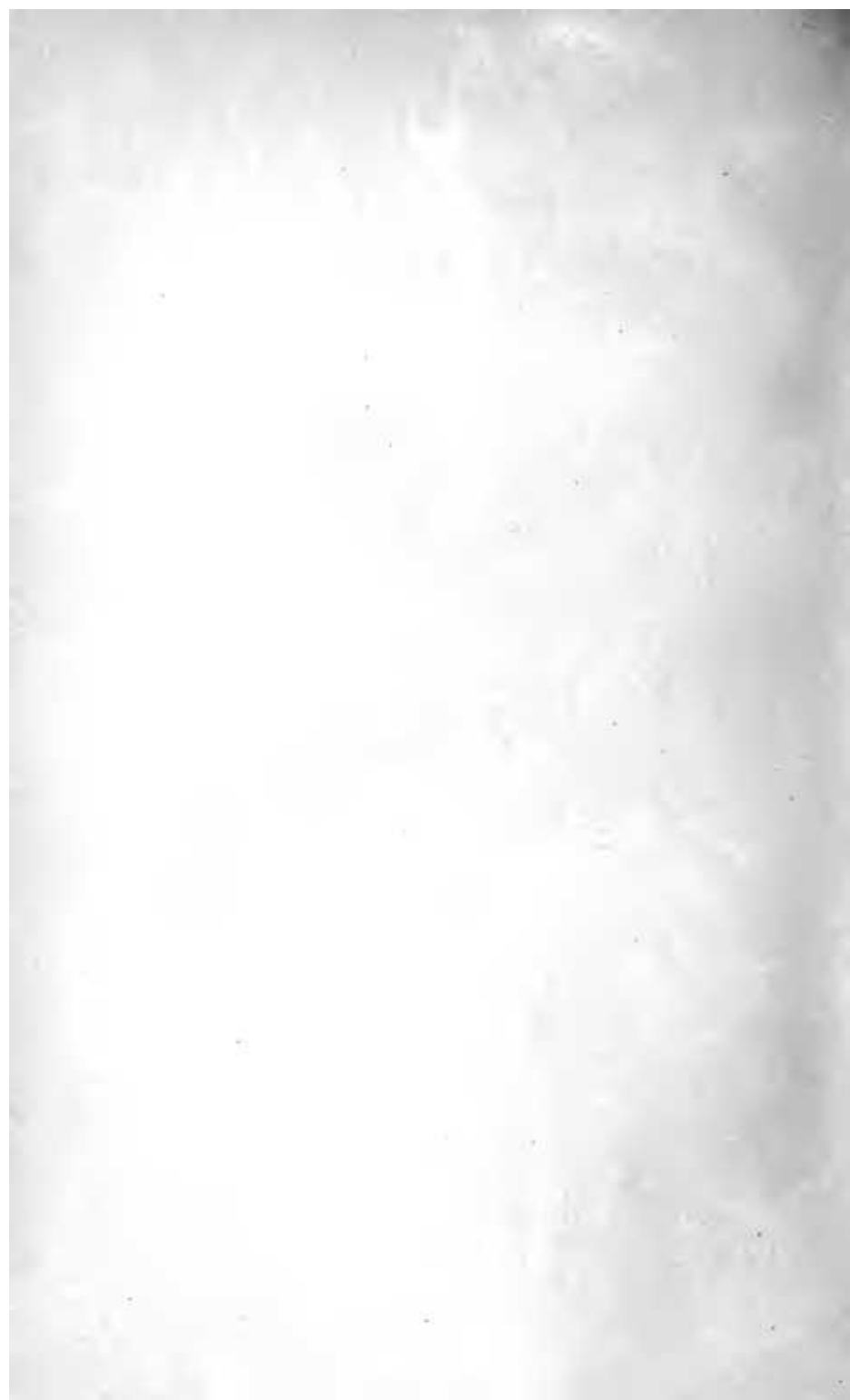
[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**MALCOLM L. HEPBURN**

**THE  
OPHTHALMOLOGY OF  
GENERAL PRACTICE**



**THE OPHTHALMOLOGY  
OF GENERAL PRACTICE**



## PREFACE

DURING the earlier part of my professional life I was engaged for several years in a busy general practice. Always interested in Ophthalmology, and with a certain amount of special training, I endeavoured to turn this knowledge to account, but was soon forced to realize my limitations in this respect. Unfortunately, the patient too often does not recognize such limitations, but expects his medical man to be an expert in all branches of medicine and surgery.

In my difficulties I consulted various well-known textbooks on Ophthalmology, but in vain. They gave me excellent advice as to treatment in cases I was unable to diagnose; they appeared to me, in fact, to proceed on the assumption that I knew more than I really did, and, in order thoroughly to understand many parts of these works, a good deal of preliminary study was necessary, the time for which I could ill afford. I therefore reluctantly gave up treating diseases of the eye altogether.

I do not defend that attitude. I am convinced, indeed, that the general practitioner can and ought to undertake treatment and give advice in many ophthalmic cases; and even when he does not profess to do so, he may occasionally find himself in a position in which he will be forced to express an opinion and initiate some line of treatment.

## Preface

My own experience of the needs of the practitioner has been my guide in writing this volume, and I commit it to the press in the hope that, without making any considerable demand upon his already over-taxed time, it may help him to distinguish between cases which he can treat himself and those which he must refer to a specialist, and, in both groups of cases, may give him the practical guidance which he requires.

MALCOLM L. HEPBURN.

111, HARLEY STREET, W.1.

*May, 1922.*



## CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
1. EXAMINATION OF THE EYE . . . . .	I
2. URGENT CASES IN GENERAL PRACTICE . . . . .	25
3. DRUGS IN OCULAR DISEASES . . . . .	36
4. OPERATIONS . . . . .	45
5. AFFECTIONS OF THE EYELIDS . . . . .	50
6. LACRYMAL AFFECTIONS . . . . .	54
7. AFFECTIONS OF THE CONJUNCTIVA . . . . .	59
8. AFFECTIONS OF THE CORNEA AND SCLERA . . . . .	75
9. IRITIS AND CYCLITIS . . . . .	88
10. GLAUCOMA . . . . .	95
11. DISEASES OF THE LENS AND THE VITREOUS . . . . .	101
12. OCULAR INJURIES . . . . .	109
13. SYMPATHETIC OPHTHALMIA . . . . .	119
14. FUNDUS CONDITIONS . . . . .	122
15. SYMPTOMATIC DISTURBANCES OF VISION . . . . .	141
16. OCULAR MANIFESTATIONS OF NERVOUS DISEASES . . . . .	144
17. SQUINT AND MOTOR ANOMALIES . . . . .	146
18. ERRORS OF REFRACTION AND ACCOMMODATION, AND EYESTRAIN . . . . .	158
19. DISEASES OF THE ORBIT . . . . .	176
INDEX . . . . .	179

# THE OPHTHALMOLOGY OF GENERAL PRACTICE

## CHAPTER I

### EXAMINATION OF THE EYE

I WOULD strongly urge upon the general practitioner the importance of making himself familiar with all the methods of ocular examination. My experience of general practice has taught me that all mistakes in diagnosis are the outcome of imperfect knowledge of how to collect the various data which are necessary to the formation of an opinion not only as to which part of the eye is affected, but also regarding the complications and sequelæ likely to ensue from any particular disease or injury.

The examination of the eye is conducted on principles so different from those employed in ordinary surgical and medical diagnosis that the help to be gained from the latter is practically valueless; and the practitioner must therefore be prepared at first to approach the subject with his mind wholly detached from other branches of medicine and surgery. It is only after the ocular diagnosis is actually made that the relationship between ophthalmology and general medicine and surgery can be considered, with a view to the institution of successful treatment, and then the full significance of this connexion in many cases becomes apparent. Therefore I advise the practitioner not to waste his time in reading the

## Ophthalmology of General Practice

chapters describing the various affections of the eye until he has thoroughly mastered and mentally digested the contents of the first four chapters. My object in the following pages is to save him the time and trouble of searching through a treatise on Ophthalmology (however abbreviated) to find there the condition he may happen to be faced with. Rather would I help him to be practically so sure of his diagnosis that he will know what part of the work to consult, and there, if necessary, discover the line of treatment to be adopted, and the complications and sequelæ to be expected. In any case of doubt a careful and systematic examination should be made of all structures connected with the eye according to the methods now to be described, beginning with the superficial parts.

The examination must be deliberate and methodical, and although the history of the case must be patiently investigated and recorded, nothing must deter the practitioner from carrying out the usual routine examination in every detail.

**Equipment.**—The equipment necessary for conducting a proper examination of all parts of the eye is as follows:—

1. Snellen's test-type card, arranged both for 6-metre and 5-metre distance, and a Jaeger type-reading card.
2. A box of lenses. A small one only is necessary, with convex and concave glasses up to 12 D, the smaller degrees being also graduated in 0.5 D, while the higher ones above 9 need not have increases in strength of less than 1 D. If the practitioner wishes to order glasses for errors of refraction he must have a larger and more expensive box, containing lenses up to 20 D, together with cylinders and prisms.
3. A trial frame.