Atlas of Macular Diseases. Diagnosis and Treatment by Dr. Donald Gass presents a detailed and thorough review of diseases affecting the macula.

The author begins by presenting the normal macula, its anatomy, histology, physiology, and angiographic findings. A new chapter discussing "the principles of interpretation of fluorescein angiograms as they relate to the basic pathophysiologic and histopathologic changes occurring in the retina and choroid" has been added in this edition. The chapters that follow include diseases causing choroidal exudative and hemorrhagic detachment of the retina, folds of the choroid and retina, heredodystrophic disorders, macular dysfunction caused by retinal vascular disorders, inflammatory disease, traumatic retinopathy, toxic diseases, hemartomas, neoplastic diseases, macular dysfunction caused by vitreous, optic nerve diseases that may masquerade as macular diseases, and, finally, photocoagulation treatment of macular diseases. Each chapter ends with extensive references organized into categories corresponding to the disease presented in the chapter.

Since the book is an atlas, it is composed of black-and-white fundus photographs, stereo color fundus photographs, fluorescein angiographs, and photomicrographs. Each illustration is accompanied by explanatory text on the facing page. The author also includes hand-drawn schematic diagrams depicting various histopathologies, making understanding simpler. A total of 2,410 illustrations is contained in the two volumes of this book, encompassing not only diseases solely affecting the eyes, but also ocular manifestation of systemic illnesses—for example, retinopathy in lupus erythematosus. The reader becomes quickly impressed by the vast amount of information and the beautiful collection of illustrations contained in these volumes.

Some of the macular diseases that were untreatable now are with the recent introduction of photocoagulation techniques. The last chapter, on photocoagulation, discusses the general principles of photocoagulation and the types of coagulation suitable for different macular lesions. The author cautions, however, that this treatment is not without complication and the ophthalmologist must evaluate each patient carefully before instituting such treatment.

To the ophthalmologist, this book is a must because it is a complete and up-to-date survey of macular diseases. For the non-ophthalmologist, it serves as a useful reference to specifics of macular diseases and some of the principles and methods of interpreting fundus photographs and fundus fluorescein angiographs.

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Oxford Textbook of Medicine. Second Edition. Edited by D.J. Weatherall, J.G.G. Ledingham, and D.A. Warrell. Volume I: Sections 1–12 and Index. Volume II: Sections 13–28, Appendix, and Index. New York, Oxford University Press, 1987. Not paginated. $135.00 the set.

A second edition of the two-volume Oxford Textbook of Medicine was published in 1987. The editors obviously spared no effort in updating the text to reflect the headlong advances in clinical and pre-clinical medicine, while maintaining clear and excellent expositions of the basic principles of pathophysiology, history taking, and clinical examination. Attention has also been directed to convenience of use, with expansion of
the table of contents, a more logical and easily readable collection of subheadings, and the inclusion of a complete index in both volumes.

A few new sections were added, and most others were revised. Almost all bibliographies were altered to include significant recent publications—some as late as 1986. This is no small accomplishment, considering the lead time requirements in publishing large texts. Even the long and excellent chapter on diseases of the skin, virtually an independent textbook of dermatology, was altered to update the bibliography and to extend the text with an addendum on decubitus ulcers.

Many other changes are worthy of mention as contributing significantly to improvements of the text. The immunology section was expanded with overviews on immunologic principles, abnormalities, and deficiencies—providing orientation to a rapidly expanding and complex field. The profound sociomedical effect of AIDS is reflected in a new section on retroviruses in human disease. The chemical and physical injury section was expanded by additions of treatment for overdose of the major drug classes and exposure to common toxic environmental agents. Under the endocrine disorders section, a new chapter on opioid peptides was added. Valuable chapters on infection in pregnancy and prescribing in pregnancy are now included in the section on reproductive medicine—subjects always problematic for the non-obstetrician.

The section on cardiovascular disease now includes expositions on the symptoms of dyspnea, chest pain, and edema—a particularly valuable orientation for students. The review of assessment of cardiac function now includes magnetic resonance imaging and computerized tomography. The chapter on treatment of heart disease was expanded to include a section on heart transplantation but has only a single speculative paragraph on the use of intravenous streptokinase in the early treatment of myocardial infarction. Is this important treatment modality not utilized in England? The overly brief description of treatment of cardiac arrest present in the first edition has not been expanded; calcium channel blockers, however, are now discussed in the treatment of angina and hypertension.

A valuable review of lymphoproliferative disorders has been added to the extensive section on diseases of the blood. A review of pathogenesis and treatment of pain enhances the section on neurology. A new section on disorders of the eye in general medicine includes a useful color atlas of eye pathology. The small color atlas of general subjects present in the first edition has been deleted. There is also a new section on sports medicine, one which reviews the etiology and treatment of complications of physical activity ranging from sprain to amenorrhea to sudden death. The section on geriatric medicine has not been expanded, but the bibliography is considerably improved.

Brief new sections entitled, "Textbooks of Medicine" and "Modern Scientific Medicine" are strongly opinionated and perhaps more suitable for publication as editorials in a medical society journal, rather than a textbook already weighing more than 16 pounds. A subsection on medical ethics was particularly disappointing. For example, major issues such as the confounding decision on whether to apply or withhold treatments made available by a rapidly advancing technology are neglected in favor of exhortations to the physician not to smoke in public, never to appear "worse for drink," and to "dress in a manner which patients would expect."

A more significant article on medical ethics, also presented in the first edition, is "Medicine in an Unjust World," which describes problems associated with providing medical care to five billion people, the majority of whom live in countries with a per
capita gross national product of less than one dollar per day. Provision of medical care for the indigent in America is a microcosm of this problem, and thus the article should be of interest to American physicians. Historically, England has been involved in Asia, Africa, India, and elsewhere, and the text often is concerned with medical subjects peculiar to foreign geographic areas or to undeveloped or developing countries. These subjects may be of lesser interest to the average American medical student or practitioner.

Production of the monumental second edition of the Oxford Textbook of Medicine is obviously a major achievement. The text is markedly improved over the first edition and will serve well as a useful reference resource of internal medicine. I believe, however, that its massive size and price, description of British treatment modalities, which sometimes differ from American, and techniques and utilization of a significantly different pharmacology, will render the volumes less attractive to American students and practitioners than the classic American texts.

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FUNDAMENTAL MECHANISMS OF HUMAN BRAIN FUNCTION: SURGICAL TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY AS AN INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCE. Edited by Jerome Engel, Jr., George A. Ojemann, Hans O. Luders, and Peter D. Williamson. New York, Raven Press, 1987. 288 pp. $36.00.

Surgery is becoming more common as a treatment for epilepsy that has not responded to medical interventions. In addition to its importance as a treatment for otherwise intractable epilepsy, surgery provides a unique opportunity for studying the human brain in vivo. Important information about both the pathophysiology of seizures and the functioning of the normal brain can be derived from experiments performed in association with the surgery.

Fundamental Mechanisms of Human Brain Function was produced as an attempt to describe the types of experiments that have been done during epilepsy surgery. The book makes no effort to summarize current understanding of the epileptic or the normal brain but rather gives a cross-sectional view of the types of research going on. The volume includes 26 papers by people well known in this field, 21 of which were originally presented at the International Conference on the Surgical Treatment of Epilepsy, held in Palm Desert, California, in February 1986. The other five papers were added later, for completeness.

The papers are divided into two sections, the first containing those on normal brain function and the second on epileptic brain function. The volume's papers demonstrate a wide variety of research techniques, such as microelectrode recording, evoked potential studies, positron emission tomography (PET), biochemical and enzyme studies, and others.

The papers are of variable quality and interest. Some are excellent, clear and concise, while others are poorly edited, with misspellings and grammatical errors, and