Several books have already been published on 'cutaneous photobiology', but the present work is the first extensive one that deals especially and almost exclusively with photodermatoses from the point of view of the clinician.

After a general introduction to photobiology with very effective drawings illustrating the distribution of the clinical features of photosensitivity, the author takes up the following topics: the clinical symptoms, the action spectra, differential diagnosis, and the treatment of the various photodermatoses. He deals with the idiopathic photodermatoses (such as polymorphic light eruption, actinic prurigo, hydroa vacciniforme, solar urticaria), the photo-aggravated dermatoses, the genodermatoses, photococontact dermatitis, chronic actinic dermatitis, drug-induced photosensitivity, and porphyria. Each chapter presents its subject very clearly and contains many clinical photographs, most of them in color.

A separate chapter is devoted to treatment with a critical discussion of the antimalarials, β-carotene, anti-inflammatory agents, and the local photoprotective agents. Practical guidelines are given for phototherapy and photochemotherapy. Finally, the investigation of cutaneous photosensitivity is explained, and the lamps, filters, wavelengths, band widths, and dose ranges necessary in action spectrum studies are discussed along with the errors encountered in test readings, equipment maintenance and photopatch testing.

The author’s discussion of each problem is to the point and includes the clinical implications. The practical advice given is based on his long and rich personal experience. The author’s graceful and pleasant style makes it read like a novel – at least for another clinician. This book is simply required reading for everyone involved in photodermatology. Its overview and updating of most of the common and less common photodermatoses is invaluable. For anyone starting a photodermatology unit, it gives a good deal of practical advice, particularly in the last chapter on the equipment and methods used for phototesting. This book is a photodermatological gem.

R. Roelandts, Leuven


The aim of this book of 152 pages is to produce for the first time in France a valuable and practical manual for all dermatologists interested in cutaneous surgery and even for general practitioners. It is the result of the collaboration of 3 dermatologists working in private practice. They have assembled an excellent series of chapters on dermatological surgery. The book begins with the usual section on anatomy (concise), equipment and local anesthesia, well explained. Simple incisional surgery, biopsy techniques and different types of sutures are described. The section on flaps is clearly expounded. Specific techniques such as cryosurgery, electrosurgery, microscopically controlled surgery and laser are up-to-date.
In the cosmetic section the paragraphs on the various methods of peeling, dermabrasion and scalp surgery are of great interest. The chapter on hair transplants, scalp reduction and scalp flaps is excellent. The last chapter concerns the best surgical approach to a variety of lesions, classified in alphabetic order. I feel this book, excellently illustrated with diagrams and color plates, worthy of a place in every dermatologist’s office to help him to manage patients with surgical skin problems. Robert Baran, Cannes