PREFACE

There is an extraordinary tendency to make the techniques of retinal detachment so complex that it seems to be beyond the ability of an ophthalmic surgeon unless he develops a special interest and devotes most of his time to this sub-speciality.
Lorimer Fison has the unique ability of simplifying the problems of retinal detachment. This has enabled ophthalmic surgeons throughout the world, especially the "occasional" retinal detachment surgeons, to attain good results in the vast majority of cases.

Because of this ability, Fison's Retinal Detachment Course has, for the past few years, attracted tremendous response from ophthalmologists throughout the world.

In 1975, through the efforts of several groups which included Keeler, E I Parrish, P C Medical Books and an individual—Miss Teo Peck Hoon (Course Registrar)—Fison was able to come to Asia and conduct the course in Singapore where 36 ophthalmologists participated. He was assisted by his former senior registrar, Dr Stuart Saunders of Canberra, Australia.

The course held in Singapore was an unqualified success. Those who attended asked that the "words" of one of the world's masters of retinal detachment be made available in print. In compiling a book of Fison's "words", the editor has considered the pros and cons of either retaining the style as it was presented, or to adjust it into textbook form. The final decision was to print it as it is, in keeping with Fison's intention to make the problems and techniques of retinal detachment easily understandable to those interested.

I have no doubt that this publication will be of help and interest to ophthalmologists who did not have the opportunity to attend one of Mr Fison’s courses.

ASM Lim

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In past years, my retinal detachment courses were organised at Highgate in London through the good offices of the Department of Clinical Ophthalmology, Moorfields Eye Hospital. Much of the success of the present course was due to the excellent paintings and illustrations by the medical artist, Mr. T.R. Tarrant of the Institute of Ophthalmology. I am particularly indebted to Mr. P.K. Leaver for assisting me with much of the background material. The constant encouragement of my colleagues and the assistance given willingly to me by my registrars, have made these courses very successful. When I was invited to conduct similar retinal detachment courses in India and in Singapore, I found it difficult to resist the temptation to show the techniques which we have developed
at Moorfields Eye Hospital to the Asian ophthalmic surgeons.
My first visit to Singapore was made possible through the efforts of several groups which included, Richard Keeler, E.I. Parrish Ltd, and P.G. Medical Books.

I must also record my thanks to the organising secretary, Miss Teo Peck Hoon (B.A. Hons.), for the tremendous effort she made in organising more than ten nurses and secretaries, namely, Chang Tao Ying, Peck Chye Fong, Karen Wong, Annie Foo, Belinda Cheang, Chin Fong Chue, Catherine Chia and Julie Yeong.

The success of the course was due mainly to the enthusiasm of the participants from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Hong Kong and Australia. Dr. S. Saunders, my previous senior registrar in London, flew in from Canberra to assist me in the running of the course.

A former advanced postgraduate student of the Institute of Ophthalmology (London), Dr. Arthur Lim, organised and chaired the whole course. It was at the request of the participants, that he has, after rewriting and editing ten drafts from the transcription of the course, produced this publication. Much of the ground work of this publication was done by a retired principal of the largest Anglican school in Singapore, Mr. Francis Thomas (M.A. Cambridge), and Mrs. Arthur Lim, who together with Dr. Ang Beng Chong and Miss Jennie Lim (B.A. Hons.), compiled the final manuscript. I am grateful to the publishers, P.G. Medical Books and Tien Wah Press (Pte) Ltd, for the publishing and printing of this book.

Last but not least, Mount Alvernia Hospital must be thanked for coping with the large number of postgraduate students in the theatre. D. Lim Kwang Hui merits special thanks for making his patients available for examination and surgery.

LORIMER FISON

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