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Foreword
Cataract is arguably the greatest affliction of humans. There are presently over 20 million people blind from cataract. Though means are available for its treatment by operation, the need far outstrips current surgical capacity - less than one in five will be able to have surgery. To find out why cataract occurs, how frequently it occurs, and how we might stay its onset or progress are some of the questions that can be answered by the discipline of epidemiology.

This volume presents papers read to the IVth International Cataract Epidemiology Meeting, a part of Cataract ’93 held at the beginning of March 1993 in Melbourne, Australia. There is a great variety of interesting material included, representing the wide range of interests of clinicians and researchers in this fascinating field. Readers are referred also to the complementary volume, a supplement to Ophthalmic Research (vol. 26, suppl. 1, 1994), which contains papers from the 6th Scheimpflug Club Meeting.

We are particularly pleased that it has proved possible to continue the pattern of publication from these meetings in the excellent Developments in Ophthalmology series from our publishers, Messrs S. Karger. To their editorial
staff we extend our gratitude. We also acknowledge the wonderful help from our co-editors, Professors Otto Hockwin and Kazuyuki Sasaki. It is also appropriate to acknowledge generous sponsorship which has made the meeting possible and aided in these publications.

Hugh R. Taylor Hector Maclean