families. The information is from several authors who are experts in their respective fields.

First published in 1983, this second edition includes new material, clear illustrations, and easy-to-read tables and graphs. The subject matter is well defined in the table of contents and indexed for faster reference.

After a basic introductory chapter by Dr. Scheinberg, epidemiology, genetics, pathophysiology, and diagnosis are thoroughly discussed. Subsequent chapters deal with important topics such as signs and symptoms, treatments, psychology, and social and vocational issues. One of the last chapters, titled "What About New Treatments?," includes a comprehensive table listing the rationale and status of approximately 20 medical and experimental therapies.

Although there is a strong focus on the medical management of multiple sclerosis, a multidisciplinary approach to the care of individual patients is also emphasized.

We frequently provide this book for patients we evaluate at our own comprehensive care center. The chapters do not need to be read in sequence and the reader can choose to read what is relevant to his or her own condition. Many of our patients and their families have reported that they learned a great deal from the book. We often use it at individual education sessions for the patient and family to clarify issues and focus on specific patient concerns relating to their personal experience with multiple sclerosis.

The text is interesting, easily understandable, and suitable as a guide for patients and their families, and is useful to any health care professional involved in the care of patients with multiple sclerosis.

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HANDBOOK OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

by Thomas W. Gardner and David E. Shoch
Appleton & Lange

The *Handbook of Ophthalmology* is a concise summary of both the basic concepts of ophthalmology and the up-to-date approach to ophthalmologic problems. It is a unique book that fulfills a unique need. It is neither a complete textbook nor a summary or a dictionary; rather, it is an outline designed for non-ophthalmologists and, in particular, medical students and house staff at various levels. However, first-year residents in ophthalmology would also be well advised to read it. In less than 300 pages the book covers basic areas of ophthalmology, symptomatology of eye disease, examination of the visual system, and disease management according to a "problem-oriented approach." The glossary at the end of the book should be useful to non-ophthalmologists seeking knowledge of some of the more esoteric terms ophthalmologists use.

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LASER THERAPY OF THE ANTERIOR SEGMENT: A PRACTICAL APPROACH

by Louis Schwartz, George Speath, and Gary Brown
Slack Incorporated

The authors of this text have had extensive experience with laser therapy at the renowned Wills Eye Hospital. The book provides an excellent broad, basic coverage of the current status of laser treatment for the anterior segment of the eye and would be of considerable value to the resident in ophthalmology, the general ophthalmologist, and the ophthalmologist specializing in glaucoma and other anterior segment disorders. The non-ophthalmologist wishing to better understand some of the uses of laser in ophthalmology would also find this text useful.

The current major uses of both the argon and the neodymium-YAG laser are covered well. Specifically, there are chapters on iridectomy, argon laser trabeculoplasty, laser capsulectomy, intravitreous laser surgery, and other miscellaneous argon laser treatments. In addition to the "how" of laser therapy, there is excellent detailed coverage of the indications, contraindications, complications, and risks and benefits of laser use.

An understanding of the relevant anatomy and gonioscopic findings of the anterior segment of the eye is crucial to appropriate laser therapy, and the authors provide a good general overview of these aspects early in the text. Throughout the text, the authors plead for caution and conservatism in the use of lasers by ophthalmologists. While acknowledging that laser therapy may someday replace other types of medical therapy for glaucoma, the authors advocate laser use only after other therapies have been tried. The authors offer personal recommendations for pre- or post-laser medical therapy and inform the reader when such therapy has not been proven clinically beneficial.

As stated in the preface, the authors' major purpose