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X
In 1972 Aulhorn, Dubois Poulsen, Greve, Jayle and Verriest met in Paris to discuss the organization of the first visual field symposium. The foundation of the International Perimetric Society took place in Marseille in 1974 on the occasion of this first symposium. Since then the International Perimetric Society has developed under the presidencies of Aulhorn and Drance into an enthusiastic and hard-working group of scientists in which valuable personal contacts were created.

The 6th International Visual Field Symposium of the International Perimetric Society, the ten-year anniversary of the Society, was held on May 27–31, 1984 at Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy. Approximately 100 IPS members and 80 guests participated in the meeting making it the largest meeting so far of the International Perimetric Society.

The main topics of the meeting were: automated perimetry, particularly strategies and basic knowledge, ergo-perimetry (practical aspects), colour perimetry and neuro-ophthalmic perimetry.

Many papers were presented on automated perimetry. Two new computerized instruments and several new automated test protocols were described and assessed. A whole group of presentations addressed the issue of threshold variability — its importance for the early recognition of visual field defects, a new method using internal inconsistencies within one test instead of double increment threshold determinations to assess subject reliability, graphic representation of areas with high threshold scatter and the variation of static as compared with kinetic testing. The difficult question of establishing visual field change over time consuming computerized perimetry (one of the main topics of the next IPS symposium) was also discussed. Several papers dealt with cartography.

No less than seven papers addressed the importance of peripheral fields. Most results were in agreement with the traditional concept that peripheral fields only rarely show defects when the central field is entirely normal. These contributions add details important to our knowledge, though, and several authors emphasized that results of peripheral field testing facilitates interpretation of test results and help in establishing topical diagnosis.

A main contribution to the proceedings is the second report on the occupational visual field concerning practical aspects. The theoretical aspects were treated in the proceedings of the 5th IVF symposium.
Colour perimetry remains of interest. Although it has not (yet) been incorporated in the daily routine of visual field examination it may well be that colour techniques can be valuable for the early detection of some diseases.

As usual there are many papers on perimetry in glaucoma. Three dealt with visual field changes after laser trabeculoplasty: one showed no regression of field defects after pressure reduction achieved through laser treatment, another even demonstrated the same rate of progression of glaucomatous field loss after laser treatment as before the operation despite considerable reduction of intraocular pressure, while the results of the third paper was considerably more positive. Other contributions shed light on the mode of progression of glaucomatous field loss and the relation between retinal nerve fibre loss and field loss.

The large number of papers ensured a rich variety of subjects and there are numerous excellent papers in these proceedings, which have not been mentioned here.

The social part of the meeting was organized in a most excellent and lavish way. This makes this ten-year anniversary of the IPS a most pleasant memory to all participants — despite the sometimes quite inhospitable weather. We want to express the sincere gratitude of the Society and to Professor Mario Zingirian and his staff for all their work in organizing the meeting. We also want to thank all authors, Mrs Els Mutsaerts, the staff at the Secretariate in Malmö and Dr. W. Junk Publishers for their effective, kind and prompt help.

We look forward to the 7th International Visual Field Symposium in the Netherlands in September 1986.

Erik Greve and Anders Heijl (Editors)
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