
Preface

The acclaimed medical historian and bibliographer Fielding H. Garrison noted that the history of medicine “may be treated variously as a pageant, an array of books, a procession of characters, a succession of the theories, an exposition of human ineptitudes, or as the very bone and marrow of cultural history.” Ophthalmic history is a microcosm of medical history, and this observation applies to it as well.

One of us (MFM) organized a symposium in 2015 at the annual meeting of the American Academy Ophthalmology, under the auspices of the Museum of Vision, to present some of the great insights that have formed the foundation of ophthalmic science. The intent was to present the people responsible, and the story of how their ideas evolved, rather than a list of their accomplishments. This proved to be informative and interesting to many of the attendees, and the editors were encouraged by Rebekah Amos Collins (Springer Editor for Clinical Medicine) to expand the symposium concept into a book.

The editors thank Jenny Benjamin, Director of the Museum of Vision, for her vital role in organizing the original symposium. We appreciate the efforts of all of the contributing authors (some of whom spoke in the symposium) not only for excellent chapters, but also for their willingness to work with us in achieving a consistent approach to the material in the book. We thank Gina Kahn for editorial assistance and of course the Springer Publishing Company for its effort and support in publication. We are especially grateful to Rebekah Amos Collins (also the project editor) with whom it has been a great pleasure to work.

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