PREFACE

The main purpose of this book is to discuss the signs and symptoms of neuro-ophthal-mological diseases in their clinical context. Therefore, I have also included the aetiology and pathogenesis of typical neurological diseases such as multiple sclerosis, intracranial tumours, cerebral aneurysms, and yet others which may present disturbances of the sensorymotor visual unit at the onset.

This book has been divided into three parts.

Part I, consisting of 8 chapters, deals with the diseases of the optic pathways. Particular attention has been paid to the use of relatively new diagnostic techniques such as automated perimetry and imaging (CT, MRI). Chapters 1 to 5 are about optic nerve diseases. Chiasmal and postchiasmal visual loss is discussed in Chapters 6 to 8.

Part II concerns itself with the diseases of the autonomic nervous system. The diagnosis of pupillary and accommodative disturbances, as well as lachrymal hyper- and hyposecretion, are discussed in this section.

Part III is about ocular motor system disturbances. This section includes chapters concerning gaze disturbances, nystagmus, paralytice strabismus, and eyelid disturbances. The last chapter deals with one of the most frustrating clinical problems - ocular hypoesthesia and hyperalgesia.

I wish to thank Arturo Carta, PhD in Neuro-Ophthalmology, University of Parma, Italy, for his valid contribution to Chapters 3, 4, and 8, of which he is co-author.

I also wish to thank Antonio Pinna, MD, University of Sassari, Italy, for translating this book into English.

Last but not least, I find it impossible to express adequately my indebtedness to Mario Maione, former Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Parma, Italy, who guided me during the first sixteen years of my career as an ophthalmologist. His suggestions and cultural and moral example are the cornerstone of my scientific, clinical, and didactic expertise.

Francesco Carta, M.D.