Book reviews

Differentialdiagnose der Augenkrankheiten. By H. PAU. 1974. Pp. 426, figs (some col.), refs. Thieme, Stuttgart (D.M. 198)

This is an excellent comprehensive short textbook of ophthalmology, which compares more than favourably with most of the contemporary English language volumes of similar form. The author has obviously set out to provide a broad-based introduction to ophthalmology, directed mainly at the clinical aspects of the specialty, and among the many commendable features are the numerous well-chosen illustrations both in colour and black-and-white. The chapters deal with the individual ocular tissues and comprehensive references are given; in addition there are discussions on ocular symptoms, physiology, injuries, and metabolic disorders. Although it may seem expensive (approximately £30), the postgraduate student will find this a most valuable textbook and reference book, as its immediate popularity in Germany has already demonstrated.

T. J. ffytche

Blood Diseases and the Ocular Fundus (Le fond d'oeil dans les maladies du sang). By G. BÉCHAC and G. BÉCHAC. 1974. Pp. 118, 36 col. pl., bibl. Doin, Paris (Fr frs 55)

The haematological disorders are classified and the fundus appearance for each condition described. Case reports are used to illustrate the retinal involvement in these diseases and there is a section of colour photographs at the end. Since haemorrhages are the main retinal features of the majority of these conditions, the fundus photographs cannot be said to be diagnostic, and by failing to refer to fluorescein angiographic studies, the authors have placed severe limitations on their demonstration of the retinal changes.

The discussions on the underlying haematological disorders make useful reading for ophthalmologists interested in this important subject.

T. J. ffytche

Practical Ophthalmologist. Edited by A. S. M. LIM. 1974. Pp. 170, 87 figs, refs. P.G. Medical Books, Singapore

Dedicated to Ida Mann on her eightieth birthday, this elegant volume contains contributions from an international team of distinguished practical ophthalmic surgeons. The subject matter is limited to cataract surgery, acute primary closed-angle glaucoma, soft contact lenses, and acupunctural anaesthesia.

The material is presented in the form of lavishly illustrated technical instruction followed by a series of lively question-and-answer sessions. The photographs, many of which are in colour, are of a high standard.

It must be emphasized that this is not a formal textbook but an interesting essay in ophthalmic journalism.

Redmond Smith

The Vertebrate Retina. Principles of Structure and Function. By R. W. RODIECK. 1974. Pp. 1044, 615 figs (10 col.), refs. Freeman, Reading (£20.50)

The author is to be envied. Other people have written encyclopaedias on this topic or that, but cannot always be said to have understood what they were writing about. This cannot be alleged about Rodieck who has produced the last word on the retina—at any rate for the next couple of years or so. As might be expected it covers its morphology, physiology, and function, and perforce concerns itself with photochemistry. Here the author has not always been well served by his advisers, at least one of whom may have pursued his own ends rather than the most worthy objective of this book. What