Book reviews

Cerebral Control of Eye Movements and Motion Perception (Symposium held in conjunction with the twenty-fifth International Congress of Physiological Sciences, Freiburg, July 1971). Edited by J. DICHGANS and E. BIZZI. 1972. Pp. 400, 7 tables, 172 figs, 2 colour plates, refs. Karger, Basel (£14.15)

This book is dedicated to Professor Richard Jung who is in charge of the Department of Neurology and Neurophysiology in the University of Freiburg and who has contributed so much to the physiology of eye movements since 1936; it is most appropriate that he provided the introduction to the other contributions. The book fits into the pattern of so many modern textbooks with a wealth of complex detail on the highly specialized subject of the neuronal mechanisms of oculomotor control and motion detection. There were 65 participants and yet the book represents the efforts of only three days' deliberations. In a review it is possible to provide only a brief outline of the main themes.

Considerable emphasis is laid on the cerebral co-ordination of the visual and vestibular functions, with particular reference to the visuomotor autoregulation and feedback mechanisms which are concerned with the stability of the visual world during ocular movement and the perceptual continuity of the sequence of retinal images in time and space. It is essential to recognize the importance of the saccade in controlling the onset, duration, and location of retinal images because each foveal fixation is determined in the intersaccadic interval. It is evident clinically that a disturbance of ocular motility may occur in strictly horizontal or vertical directions, but in physiological terms there is no such isolation because any form of saccadic movement involves all the extrinsic ocular muscles (horizontal and vertical). The role of the reticular formation in the pons in the production of the quick phases of nystagmus and of saccadic movement is stressed in different parts of the text.

This is obviously a book which is of special interest to any worker in the experimental field of the controlling mechanisms of ocular movements, but it is also of importance to the clinician who wishes to attain a deeper understanding of the problems concerned in disorders of ocular motility.

KENNETH WYBAR

Contemporary Oculoplastic Surgery. Edited by PIERRE GUIBOR and BYRON SMITH. 1974. Pp. 181, figs, refs. Stratton, New York (\$17.95)

This book, dedicated to Marvin H. Quickert, is a selection of papers and discussions from the annual meeting of the American Society of Contemporary Ophthalmology. Individual authors describe their personal preferences, and topics range from detailed accounts of standard procedures—such as, tarsorrhaphy, ectropion, and dacryocystorhinostomy—to less well recognized procedures such as scleral transplantation for lid retraction and cryosurgery of eyelid carcinomas. There are no papers on the detailed use of skin flaps and grafts but the book does not attempt to be a standard textbook of oculoplastic surgery. However it is very well illustrated and a variety of technical details in extraocular procedures are emphasized which should prove helpful to the practising ophthalmic surgeon.

J. R. O. COLLIN

Current Concepts in Cataract Surgery (selected from Proceedings of the Third Biennial Cataract Surgical Congress). Edited by J. M. EMERY and D. PATON. 1975. Pp. 442, tables, figs, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (£18.75)

Selected contributions from about 75 of the participants of the third published proceedings of the symposium held in Miami are included. Papers cover most aspects of cataract surgery, in addition to many associated disorders such as retinal detachment, glaucoma, and bullous keratopathy to mention only a few. Not all the material by any means is new but many ideas and suggestions are put forward. These must surely be most useful for the ophthalmic registrar who is learning cataract surgery for he will read of many techniques, managements, and treatments—some of which will be useful, some will be discarded. Such students, like the experienced ophthalmologist, will have to be discerning in their reading of the volume which is largely comprehensive in its coverage. It is a pity that intraocular lenses received such a meagre mention now that their recent improvements add much to their appeal. Many times throughout the book contributors are referred to by their first names and the reader is often at a loss as to which speaker is being addressed. The monochromatic photographs and outline drawings are liberal and the volume well worth inclusion in the surgeon's library.

I. M. DUGUID