Book reviews

Eye Muscle Problems in Childhood. A Manual for Parents. By C. E. WINDSOR and J. HURTT. 2nd ed. 1974. Pp. 48, 18 figs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (80p)

This book provides a concise and factual account of the problems which beset disorders of ocular motility, particularly those developing in early childhood. It is designed for the guidance of the parents of such children, and represents a revision and condensation of the monograph *Strabismus in Childhood* by Herbert M. Katzin and Geraldine Wilson which appeared in 1968 and which was based on the book *Rehabilitation of the Child's Eyes* by Richard Scobee.

The book deals with the mechanisms which are concerned in the development of normal binocular function and with the defects which are liable to interfere with this process so that there is the production of a squint. This sequence provides a ready explanation for the various motor and sensory disorders which form part of the squint and also a basis for the methods of treatment which are adopted to secure a satisfactory functional result. It is almost tedious to find fault with the text which is largely uncontroversial and represents an up-to-date approach to the whole subject, but it is marred by the statement that the retina becomes fully developed and sensitive enough to register focused images only between the ages of 2 and 3 years and also by the statement that the lack of development of an infant's eyes accounts for the type of convergent squint which usually disappears within the first 8 months. Surely these remarks belong to a bygone age, and in any event are refuted in other parts of the text which stress the need for an early assessment in all cases of suspected squint.

KENNETH WYBAR

The Eye and Systemic Disease. Edited by A. MAUSOLF. 1975. Pp. 450, figs, tables, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (£21.75)

This publication presents a series of papers given at a symposium organized by the Department of Ophthalmology, Iowa City 1974. In 400 pages the major fields of medical ophthalmology are extensively and refreshingly covered. Each subject under discussion combined papers by a physician and an ophthalmologist, both of whom were accredited experts in their chosen fields. The expertise collected in this way provided interesting discussion periods which are fully reported. These factors serve to make this book one of the most authoritative books on the eye and systemic disease.

Hereditary metabolic diseases were discussed by Fredrickson whose contributions to this subject are already well known, and his ophthalmological partner Podos provided a comprehensive review of the ocular signs to make this a powerful opening for the symposium. An interesting paper by Ditzel from Denmark

discussed disordered oxygen transport by the red cell in diabetics with assessment of 2,3-DPG (2,3-diphosphoglycerate), and this was paired by an interesting review of the ocular signs by Henkind. Almost a quarter of this book is devoted to dermatology and the eye, with extensive systemic (Perry) and ophthalmic (Bietti) coverage. Other topics discussed include collagen diseases and the eye (Kearns), vascular disease (Cogan), gastrointestinal disease (Knox), endocrine disease (Dardenne), blood and reticulo-endothelial disease (Luxembourg), and nutritional disease (Halasa).

The book is beautifully produced, well edited, and contains a most extensive bibliography. It seems a necessary purchase for any ophthalmologist concerned with the wider implications of ophthalmic diagnosis and treatment.

M. D. SANDERS

Helfer des Augenarztes (The Ophthalmologist's Assistant). By KARL VELHAGEN. 1974. Pp. 287, 136 figs, 11 tables, refs. Thieme, Leipzig (DM43.20)

As the title suggests this is a book not so much for the ophthalmologist but for his assistant. It deals with the large variety of tests and procedures that are linked with routine ophthalmic practice. There are chapters on anatomy, basic physiology and optics, but the major part of the book is concerned with the carrying out of single diagnostic techniques and nursing procedures. The ophthalmic assistant in most Continental countries fills the role of receptionist, nursing sister, technician, and secretary and this book is intended as a working manual and vade-mecum.

Unfortunately this type of ophthalmic assistant rarely exists in England but this volume, if it were translated, would be an excellent addition to nurses' libraries, and to the practical manuals found in ophthalmic outpatients and casualty departments.

T. J. FFYTCH

Ocular Manifestations of Inborn Errors of Carbohydrate and Lipid Metabolism (Bibliotheca Ophthalmologica No. 84). Edited by J. FRANÇOIS. 1975. Pp. 175, 85 figs, 3 tables, refs. Karger, Basel (DM74)

It is a pleasure to see this brief, and excellent monograph by one of Europe's most prolific contributors. The subject is one of increasing complexity as biochemical and histological studies continue to define subgroups of the previously well defined clinical syndromes.

The book is divided into three sections on: carbohydrate metabolism, lipid metabolism, and the mucopolysaccharides.

Reference is made only to those disorders that involve the visual system, and in particular, the sensory system.