The text is clear and amplified by numerous illustrations but the bibliography, although considerable, lacks many important recent references. The English is excellent although terms such as dysoric retinopathy (page 87) might elude the most knowledgeable reader. This book obviously suffers from certain disadvantages when an ophthalmologist enters such a complex and changing field. There is thus confusion between Batten-Mayou disease and juvenile GM₂ gangliosidosis, and the complex subject of Niemann-Pick disease could be clarified. The author states that the enzymatic defect of Farber's disease is not known although it was described in 1972.

However, the condensation of information into 173 pages is appealing, and this book is strongly recommended for ophthalmologists as a practical way to keep abreast of this exciting field.

M. D. SANDERS

Ocular Pharmacology. By W. H. HAVENER. 1974. 3rd ed. Pp. 715, figs, tables, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (£18.30)

This book is drug orientated. Three-quarters of it is devoted to basic pharmacology and the wider use of drugs in ophthalmology. In the remainder current therapy is considered primarily in connection with cataract and glaucoma.

The book is essentially on applied physiology and pharmacology and written by a clinician for clinicians. Most aspects are covered fairly comprehensively with extended chapters on antibiotics, autonomic drugs, and steroids.

In an early general section emphasis is placed on avoiding unnecessary, useless, and wasteful prescriptions and the possibility of serious side-effects of drugs. We are reminded that among contraindications for the use of a drug is often the lack of its specific indication.

The author has a pleasing style and does not hesitate to add his own views. From time to time a point is reinforced with an interesting or amusing anecdote.

D. GREAVES

Symposium on Ocular Therapy, Vol. 7. Edited by I. H. LEOPOLD. 1974. Pp. 134, tables, figs, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (£10.20)

The contents of this book are not quite what would be expected from the title, as the account is more on the complications of drugs than their beneficial effects, but this adds to rather than detracts from the usefulness of the volume.

It is estimated that 2 to 3 per cent of all congenital malformations are induced by drugs or environmental chemicals, and the first chapter contains a comprehensive review of the ocular lesions induced by drugs taken during

pregnancy. The problems arising from drug interactions and individual susceptibility are next briefly discussed, and these chapters are followed by a long discussion of the diagnosis, pathogenesis, surgical and medical treatment of neovascular glaucoma. In spite of the many procedures suggested, the prognosis for vision is very poor and the best that can be done is to relieve pain.

Vitreous haemorrhage is not amenable to any medical treatment, and a critical analysis of the results of corticosteroid therapy in acute optic neuritis concludes that it is of no benefit. The final chapters contain a brief discussion on prostaglandins and the eye, and the use of aspirin and other prostaglandin synthetase inhibitors in ophthalmology, and a brief review of drug-induced retinopathies.

Although the reader will find no magic drug to enhance his therapeutic potential, he will at least be warned of the dangers inherent in the use of drugs and be more aware of their toxic effects.

E. S. PERKINS

Ultrasonography in Ophthalmology (Proceedings of the Fifth Congress of the International Society for Ultrasonic Diagnostics in Ophthalmology, Ghent, 30 May, 1973). Edited by J. FRANÇOIS and F. GOES. 1974. Pp. 340, 66 tables, 172 figs, refs. Karger, Basel (£25.60)

The reports have been split into four sections dealing in turn with techniques, intraocular and orbital diagnosis, and oculometry.

In a series of communications, scanning was shown to be a useful tool in the diagnosis of vitreous haemorrhage and in excluding or confirming any underlying cause such as tumour or detachment. Similarly, scans may help to differentiate a solid from a fluid or simple detachment. Articles on intraocular foreign body and tumour localization by scanning, and evidence deduced concerning optic nerve and orbital pathology could be of assistance to the surgeon. The possibility of tissue differentiation and ultrasonic velocity change, as seen in cataract, was being explored experimentally as well as from the research point of view. Oculometry was used for measuring anterior chamber depth, eyeball length in myopia and the calculation of dioptric power for acrylic lens implants after cataract extraction. The last paper showed that the method had been helpful in noting changes in lens and anterior chamber size with the use of drugs.

This book is a useful addition to the literature on ultrasonics and follows as a natural companion to the report of the previous congress. The many diagrams and figures allow the book to be easily read and understood by the beginner. It will be a handy reference book for workers in the field and is to be recommended.

G. V. CATFORD