Book reviews

Second Congress of the International Strabismological Association. Edited by PETER FELS. 1976. Pp. 422, figs, tables, refs. Diffusion Générale de Librairie: Marseille

These transactions contain a remarkable mixture of papers of widely differing value. In addition to the Bielechowsky lecture of Professor Harms the main sections are on amblyopia, electrophysiology, vertical strabismus, and prism therapy. The terminology is often Continental. Some of the papers are so esoteric and compressed as to be incomprehensible without a good working knowledge of recent trends, particularly in the theory and practice of the management of anomalous sensory responses. The book is therefore not one for the unguided general ophthalmic surgeon.

Nevertheless, many of the 57 papers are of great value, and there is something for everyone interested in strabismology. A selection from these papers must necessarily be a personal one, but all who are interested in the basic mechanisms involved in squint will appreciate those by Harms (anomalous sensory processes), Flynn (neurophysiology of suppression), Von Noorden (experimental amblyopia), Thomas and Spielmann (false anisometropia), and Hamburger (cortical after-images). The section on electrophysiology has a number of distinguished papers, especially those from Robinson and Scott. There are extremely valuable practical papers for the surgeon from, among others, Hugonier (reinforcing previous warnings about the late complications of the correction of superior oblique palsy), Hardisty (superior oblique tucking), Knapp (dissociated vertical deviations), Dunlap (double elevator under-action), Hiles and Manley (vertical incomitance in A—pattern exotropia), and Ferrer (general fibrosis syndrome). The strabismus surgeon and the orthoptist will gain useful insight into current thinking from the sections on amblyopia treatment and prism therapy. There is more than sufficient here to make this book essential in any library concerned with strabismus management.

A. STANWORTH

Nuclear Ophthalmology. Edited by M. N. CROLL, L. W. BRADY, P. CARMICHAEL, and R. J. WALLNER. 1976. Pp. 284, figs., tables, refs. John Wiley, New York (£19.25)

It is appropriate that this book should appear now, as it will not only condense and clarify the many changes and advances but also enlarge the horizons of persons interested in the subject. The book is comprehensive, being divided into many small chapters written by different authors. Unfortunately, some of these leave the reader at a loss, and he is unable to determine exactly what the writer intended. Happily such failings are rare.

The book starts with a valuable explanatory section on 'physical fundamentals' and a glossary which is of value

to the student before he proceeds to the large portion devoted to malignant melanoma. Radiopharmaceuticals are comprehensively covered, while the application of radioactivity in the diagnosis of conditions other than neoplasia is superb. This book fully deserves to be read by all working on its topic.

IAN M. DUGUID

Tissue Differentiation with Ultrasound. Edited by H. G. TRIER. 1977. Pp. 118, 32 figs., 13 tables, refs. Karger, Basel (DM49)

Ultrasonography is becoming an increasingly valuable diagnostic procedure in the examination of the eye and orbit. This volume discusses the physical principles of ultrasound and the instrumentation. There are much wider applications of the technique in general medicine and neurology; the section on the ophthalmic use is short and is concerned more with principles than clinical practice.

This monograph contains much technical information and is intended for those working in the field of ultrasonography rather than for the practising ophthalmologist.

T. J. FFYTCH

Contact Lens Correction. N. BIER and G. E. LOWTHER. 1977. Pp. 520, figs. (some in colour), refs. Butterworth, London (£29.50)

Norman Bier began contact lens practice at a time when scleral hard lenses were the only ones available. His first textbook covered the practice of hard corneal and scleral lenses, in which he was a pioneer; they were used extensively in the 1950s and 1960s. We therefore welcome this updated text on contact lens practice, which has Gerald Lowther as a co-author. It is best to review this book as a new text, since only a few chapters contain material from the previous book by Bier.

The chief section deals with basic principles, haptic contact lenses, corneal contact lenses, flexible (soft) lenses, and special lenses and procedures. The textbook covers in its 500-odd pages the whole of contact lens practice, and is therefore thoroughly comprehensive. But for a few exceptions the illustrations are of good quality and well chosen. There is an imbalance in style and attitudes which is evidently due to some chapters being mostly the work of one author. This becomes apparent in the use of references. Thus some chapters are well referenced and others poorly so—to the extent that no credits are given to work that has appeared in well-known publications on contact lenses. While this will be a source of annoyance for serious students of contact lens practice, it will not detract from the book's value to those experienced practitioners who will use it solely as reference. There are several tables available, but in this age of small convenient calculators one doubts the value of the many detailed tables.