

## Book reviews

**Microsurgery of the Anterior Segment of the Eye.** Vol. 2. *The Cornea: Optics and Surgery.* By RICHARD C. TROUTMAN. Pp. 357. £39.90. Mosby: St. Louis, Missouri. 1977.

This book, the second in Professor Troutman's series on anterior segment microsurgery, deals with corneal problems. The author first considers the surgical anatomy and optics of the cornea; the latter section is particularly concerned with changes brought about in the cornea by disease or surgery. The next section details the indications for keratoplasty in relation to anatomical, topographical, and optical variations which may affect the cornea. Chapters are included on obtaining, processing, preparing, and cutting donor material; the technical aspects of keratoplasty, both penetrating and lamellar; modifications in technique in the management of aphakia; surgical techniques to obtain a better optical result such as wedge resection; and operative treatment of glaucoma in a grafted eye. There is a final chapter on routine post-operative care and treatment of complications.

This is a comprehensive account of one author's experience of corneal surgery. It is beautifully illustrated by line drawings emphasising every aspect discussed in the text. The basic techniques described will be of interest to the beginner in corneal surgery, while the refinements planned for better optical results will prove of greater interest to the experienced surgeon. RICHARD PACKARD

**Neuro-ophthalmology.** By JOEL S. GLASER. 1978. Pp. 364, figs., tables, refs. Harper & Row, Hagerstown, Maryland (\$35)

This symposium from the University of Miami and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is a collection of essays written by experts in their own field. Amaurosis fugax is discussed by Noble David, who comes to the conclusion that our ultimate hope of controlling this disease lies in a better understanding of the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis and early application of prophylactic principles. Scheinberg, talking on management of occlusive cerebrovascular disease, states that the thrust of recent research into the biochemistry and physiology of cerebral ischaemia has been to identify those events responsible for tissue death and to develop pharmacological strategies to counteract them. He feels there is good reason to assume that ultimately these approaches will be transferable to the bedside. Daroff, in discussing dizziness and vertigo, hopes that further experience will establish a safe and reliable operation for these intractable patients whose situation is indeed desperate. Troost, in a chapter on aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations, and fistulas, sums up our present knowledge on this aspect of cerebral disease. Rhoton and his colleagues discuss microsurgical anatomy of the sellar region and cavernous sinus in a most unusual way, stressing how the variants of anatomy are so important in modern cerebral surgery, and this is followed by a discussion on microsurgery of the sellar region reminiscent of the transformation which is taking

place in ophthalmic surgery. Transsphenoidal approach to the sella is concisely described by Linda Orr and associates.

Axonal transport in the retina and optic nerve is discussed by Douglas Anderson, and this is followed by an assessment of intraconal steroids in the treatment of retrobulbar neuritis by Alan Bird and his colleagues. Endocrine ophthalmopathy is described independently of laboratory confirmation but supported by characteristic findings on the computer scanner and ultrasound recordings of the orbit.

Schmidt discusses saccadic eye movements in myasthenic ocular muscle pareses, and then a chapter follows on postganglionic Horner syndrome by Grimson and Thompson. The practical management of pseudo-tumour cerebri is discussed by Lubow, and this is followed by a chapter by Bell on observation of retinal nerve fibre degeneration after optic nerve injury. A stimulating discussion on changing concepts of structure and function in pituitary adenomas is offered by Landolt, and a chapter follows on therapeutic aspects of the empty sella syndrome. The final chapters are on inferior hemianopia in parasellar and pituitary tumours and one on visual field defects associated with choroidal folds. This book can be read chapter by chapter, one at a time. Each is a complete story in itself. S. J. H. MILLER

**Atlas of Veterinary Ophthalmic Surgery.** By STEPHEN I. BISTNER, GUSTAVO AGUIRRE, and GEORGE BATIK. 1977. Pp. 302, figs., tables, refs. Saunders, Philadelphia (£22.50)

This book is a further addition to the increasing library on veterinary and comparative ophthalmology. It is, however, by far the best volume dealing with operative surgery, and although primarily intended for practising veterinary surgeons and students it will be of interest to some ophthalmic surgeons. The authors are 2 well-known American veterinary ophthalmologists, together with a medical illustrator from the New York State Veterinary College. They describe the basic techniques applicable to a variety of animal species, though the major part of the book is devoted to the dog, as could be expected.

The first 3 chapters deal with instruments, anaesthesia (unfortunately without reference to techniques of general anaesthesia for ophthalmic surgery), and basic techniques including plastic surgery, eye exposure, etc. The remaining 8 chapters cover the eyelids, entropion and ectropion, the nasolacrimal system, conjunctiva and membrana nictitans, cornea, lens, glaucoma, and the orbit. These chapters clearly describe many surgical procedures and include useful notes on practical anatomy and physiology, complications, and postoperative treatment. There are no photographs except in the introductory chapters, but many black-and-white pen-and-ink drawings of good quality are included. Each chapter finishes with several references, mainly from American veterinary journals.

There are 3 appendices: a useful table of the breed predisposition to eye diseases in dogs and cats; a colour atlas of some common ocular conditions almost entirely in the dog; and a list of American manufacturers.

K. C. BARNETT



## Microsurgery of the Anterior Segment of the Eye

Richard Packard

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