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Book reviews

Topics in Neuro-Ophthalmology. Ed. H. STANLEY THOMPSON. Pp. 377. \$47.75. European Book Service: Netherlands. 1979.

The chapters in this book originated as contributions to a meeting in the University of Iowa in November 1977. As often happens, the delay in publication takes some of the gilt off what is essentially good gingerbread. The volume begins with some interesting papers on visual fields. There is a good chapter on the basic aspects of field testing and an appropriate warning that 'Goldmann perimetry is quite capable of producing falsely negative and falsely positive results'. Visual field examination is of course only one form of sensory examination. As in testing other modalities of sensation, the examiner must walk the narrow path between on the one hand paying too little attention to that aspect of sensory disturbance which is likely to be present, and on the other persuading the patient to agree to the sensory deficit the examiner expects to be present. It is also true that in sensory testing of any sort the intervention of too many mechanical devices, however elegant, between the patient and the examiner may lead more to error than to accuracy. The explanation of the difficulties of screen examination are certainly appropriate, but many would not agree with the limited role assigned to the use of the tangent screen in the exploration of central field defects.

The next series of chapters is devoted to pupillary abnormalities, including a useful chapter on the myotonic pupil, with an interesting account of patchy reductions of corneal sensitivity in association with myotonic pupils. Bell and Thompson found evidence of reduced pupillary response to light associated with tract lesions, while Corbett and his colleagues seem less certain of this. There are interesting papers on papilloedema and a discussion of the relevance of disturbances of axonal transport. The section on visual evoked responses and in particular new visual tests in multiple sclerosis are helpful reviews, as are the chapters on ocular movements. The last section on applications of CT scanning is of interest but has been rather overtaken by the rapid progress in this technique, with the development of coronal views, which in this volume receives only very brief mention.

C. J. EARL

Modern Problems In Ophthalmology: New Aspects of Vitreoretinopathy. Vol. 20. Eds. E. W. D. NORTON, C. GAILLOUD, N. DUCREY, M. GONVERS. Pp. 438. S.Fr.260. Karger: Basel, Switzerland. 1979.

This book gives an account of the proceedings of the eleventh meeting of the Gonin Club, held in Barcelona in October 1978. There are 87 papers discussing such diverse subjects as ciliochoroidal oedema, vitrectomy for intraocular foreign bodies, giant tears and diabetic eye disease, photocoagulation for inner and outer retinal disorders, functional results after retinal reattachment, explants, and muscle imbalance following surgery.

A somewhat cynical view of this expensive volume

might be that most, if not all, of the *valuable* presentations will be published elsewhere (probably within the time period taken for production of the book), while the remainder would doubtless fail to pass formal editorial scrutiny. Nevertheless, those contributions lacking in originality frequently provide a useful review of the subject, and the accounts of the post-session discussions, though disappointingly brief, help to put individual papers in perspective.

What is missing in any such volume, of course, is any overall structure or framework. A student might be forgiven for wondering, for example, why the Germans and Japanese attempt complicated, even computerised, measurement of subretinal fluid volume when most of us are happy to go along with Gonin and simply close the breaks. The book does, however, contain contributions from most of the leading authorities in retinal disease worldwide, and is a must for all with a special interest in the subject.

DAVID MCLEOD

Stereoscopic Vision. Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Discussion organised by D. Whitteridge and P. G. H. Clarke. Pp. 518. £5.90. The Royal Society: London. 1979.

Some of the most distinguished workers in the field of visual physiology contributed to a discussion meeting at the Royal Society in March 1978, and this volume contains papers from the gathering. Although chiefly of interest to visual physiologists, some of the papers have implications that may attract those wishing to understand more deeply certain aspects of binocular vision in the clinical setting.

DAVID TAYLOR

Binocular Vision. By HOWARD SOLOMONS. Pp. 504. £18.75. Heinemann: London. 1978.

This book has been planned as a programmed text for students of optometry and ophthalmology. In particular the author hopes that it will provide a scientific framework to support orthoptists in their diagnostic and therapeutic work. Furthermore, since no prior knowledge of binocular vision is necessary, workers in other fields, such as psychologists, ergonomists, and visual scientists, may readily use it. The book is divided broadly into motor and sensory fusion, and the treatment within each section is complete and up to date. Wherever possible, figures from original papers or textbooks have been used, with full acknowledgements. Each chapter has a few well chosen references, mainly to important recent books, instead of a daunting list of papers which would otherwise be necessary in such a comprehensive volume.

Unfortunately the style is that of a lecture with the colloquial use of 'you'll see' and 'don't'. Nor must the reader be put off by occasional gross misrepresentation, such as occurs on page 5: 'Of course, neural impulses are electric, as they consist of the transmission of a change in the sign of the voltage along a nerve'. The repetitious style demanded by a programme text makes for tediousness in some sections. It is particularly important that the answers column should be correct, and



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