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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

it is discouraging to find 'refactory' and 'dentritic' on page 98. Even worse is the consistent misspelling of Wiesel's name in the many references to his seminal work. Using figures from original papers has the danger that reduction in scale has made some illegible. It is harder to excuse the almost impenetrable fundus photograph on page 273.

It would be easy to give more examples of similar mistakes in details, and this would be to ignore the many good ideas and clear exposition of difficult subjects such as horopters, space perception, and stereopsis. It is easy to correct spelling and the quality of reproduction of figures. The inclusion of red and green anaglyphs with viewing spectacles for depth perception would be a great advantage.

It is to be hoped that these minor criticisms will be taken to heart for the next edition, since the general concept of the book is to be admired and it will undoubtedly deepen the understanding of all who read it.

PETER FELLS

Fortschritte der Kiefer-und Gesichts-Chirurgie. Vol. 24. Plastische Chirurgie im Mund-, Kiefer-und Gesichtsbereich. By H. von Karl Schuchardt and Norbert Schwenzer. Pp. 151. DM190. George Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart. 1979.

This book is a collection of articles on plastic surgery of the face and head. The topics which may be of interest to an ophthalmologist include the treatment of some bony defects in the skull and periorbital region, blepharochalasis, port-wine stains, and dermabrasion. There are a good series of clinical photographs, but since the book is written in German and most of the articles do not relate to ophthalmology I doubt whether it will be of much value to readers of this journal.

J. R. O. COLLIN

Advances in Ophthalmology. Vol. 39. Eds. M. J. ROPER-HALL, H. SAUTTER, E. B. STREIFF. Pp. 273. S.Fr188. Karger: Basel, Switzerland.

This multiauthor, multilingual book contains 6 chapters on varying aspects of ophthalmology. Subjects include pathophysiology of the retinal circulation (French), mitotic properties of the pigment epithelium (German), and the P-32 test (German). The 3 papers in English are on retinoblastoma, ultrastructural changes in the iris after laser, and ocular manifestations of demyelinating disease. Much of this information is provided elsewhere in original papers, so that at £49 this would appear an expensive purchase.

M. D. SANDERS

Ocular and Adnexal Tumors. By FREDERICK A. JAKOBIEC. Pp. 929. Dutch Guilders 260. Kugler Medical Publications: Holland. 1978.

This very well produced large book brings together in 58 chapters contributions from 71 authors, all of whom are personally concerned as clinicians and pathologists in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with the misfortune to have some type of neoplastic disease involving the eye, the orbit, and its neighbouring tissues. This outstanding volume is dedicated to the memory of

the late Dr Algernon B. Reese, who personally contributed so much to this aspect of ophthalmology in his writings, in his personal care of patients, and in the teaching of those who had the privilege of attending or working in his department. It is edited by, and includes several contributions from, one of his disciples—Frederick A. Jakobiec, who is now director of the A. B. Reese Laboratory of Ophthalmic Pathology at the E. S. Harkness Eye Institute at the Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital, New York.

The text is very clearly printed and therefore a pleasure to read. There are over 800 illustrations, including well-reproduced clinical photographs, histological photomicrographs, x-rays, ultrasound, and CT scans and tables; references to the literature follow each separate chapter. There is an author index and subject index.

All aspects of the pathology, natural history, clinical diagnosis, methods of investigation, treatment, and prognosis of ocular and adnexal tumours are considered in 5 sections. These deal successively with intraocular melanoma; nonmelanomatous intraocular tumours, including retinoblastoma and vascular lesions; diagnostic techniques, including isotope uptake tests, ultrasound and CT scanning, cytology, enzyme studies, and immunology; lid and conjunctival tumours; inflammations and tumours of the orbit. The text includes the first A. B. Reese memorial lecture by L. Zimmerman on the histogenesis of conjunctival melanoma, and this follows an outstanding clinicopathological study of this disease contributed by the editor and his colleagues and an account of its natural history by P. Henkind.

Many chapters include comments and discussion about the various methods of treatment that are available for ocular and orbital tumours. These include radical removal by enucleation, or exenteration of the orbit and the various techniques of localised surgical excision with preservation of lid, conjunctiva, and the eye; also methods which attempt to destroy the tumour *in situ* by diathermy, photocoagulation, cryotherapy, chemosurgery, and the various techniques of radiotherapy. There is some discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of observation without specific intervention unless there is unequivocal evidence of actual growth in certain tumours.

The major content of this book, however, concerns description of the detailed pathology of certain ocular tumours, including some relatively rare conditions. Each of these chapters individually is excellent but especially that concerned with the ultrastructural characteristics of ocular tumours, which itself occupies nearly 100 pages and is accompanied by excellent illustrations.

Without any doubt this beautifully produced volume, reflecting the work of many people, is an outstanding contribution to the literature of ophthalmology. To those particularly concerned in their clinical work with patients having some type of ocular tumour it will be a great source of information and help, and they certainly will wish to obtain the book for their own personal use. It certainly should be made available in the libraries of eye hospitals and also in those hospitals whose pathologists are called on to help in the diagnosis of ocular tumours.

P. A. MACFAUL



Binocular Vision

Peter Fells

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