multiauthor book, the quality is uneven. Some chapters are excellent, others are not so objective, containing a particular bias or ideas that are either untried or do not bear relevance to the general management of the particular ophthalmic problem.

The chapters on pre-ocular tear film abnormalities, extended wear soft contact lenses, the management of posterior ocular injuries, and advances in the pharmacological treatment of glaucoma are particularly good, informative, well written, and of great help to practising ophthalmologists. Although fungal keratitis is not common in the United Kingdom, the chapter on this is of interest to all and a useful, up-to-date reference. Personal bias rather than objective knowledge is contained in the chapter on herpetic eye disease. The table on keratouveitis scoring is largely untried and is not of relevance to the general ophthalmologist, and the diagram on the disease progression is misleading. Personal bias is also seen in the chapter on intraocular lens implantation in children. Iris clip lenses are becoming unpopular because of problems inherent in their insertion and stability and the difficulty of adequate retinal examination. Should such a lens be promoted when there are now safer lenses, and when they are associated with a 38% endothelial cell loss, which must carry a poor prognosis for long-term corneal clarity? One slight criticism of the excellent chapter on the management of thyroid ophthalmology is that more emphasis should have been put on the measurement of the vision as an indication of the effects of orbital compression, particularly in cases where proptosis is not prominent (concealed exophthalmus).

Any elective book such as this leaves many questions unanswered, but it achieves its aim in informing on the subject it deals with, acting as a quick practical reference, and is highly recommended, although it is expensive. It will form a useful and essential contribution to all medical libraries.

JAMES MCGILL

Third International Symposium of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery of the Eye and Adnexa. Eds. SHERRELL J. ASTON, ALBERT HORNBLOSS, MURRAY A. MELTZER, THOMAS D. REES. Pp 362. £48.25. Williams and Wilkins: London. 1982.

This book is a collection of chapters on ophthalmic plastic surgery written by different authors who contributed these articles at the Third International Oculo Plastic Conference of the Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital. It is a great tribute to the organisers that they collected such an impressive number of participants distinguished in a particular field. Such contributors include Beard on ptosis, Castanares on cosmetic surgery, Mustarde on lid reconstruction, Smith on blow-out fractures, Veirs on lacrimal repair, Wright on orbital surgery, and Zacarian on cryotherapy.

The disadvantage of most such symposium series is the difficulty of producing a comprehensive coverage of the subject, but the editors have overcome this to a remarkable degree by introducing some controversial articles such as the ones by Jackson on nasolacrimal duct reconstruction, Puterman on blow-out fractures, and Litton on cosmetic chemosurgery, and also by limiting the contributions on any

one subject. The treatment of adnexal tumours is thus covered by short separate chapters on cryotherapy, surgery, radiotherapy, Moh's technique of microscopically controlled excision, and the management of advanced cancer, which gives an overall view of the available forms of treatment.

Inevitably different authors examine their topics in different detail and the quoted bibliographies vary from extensive to nil. The subjects covered range from a fascinating history of plastic surgery in the orbital region to major craniofacial surgery and include articles on many ophthalmic plastic surgery problems, but this should in no way be regarded as a comprehensive textbook. It is, however, a very interesting collection of the current views of a large number of experts in their own field and as such is well worth reading.

J. R. O. COLLIN

Ophthalmology Made Ridiculously Simple. By STEPHEN GOLDBERG. Pp. 82. £7.00. Medmaster: Miami, Florida, 1982.

The author's credentials are his post as associate professor in the Department of Anatomy and Family Medicine in the University of Miami, with board certification in ophthalmology, and a training in neurology. His audience is the nonophthalmologist, and the perspective is that of a family physician.

About a quarter of the 82-page slim paperback is occupied by chapter 9, 'Clinical review,' which matches symptoms with diagnoses and depicts in 34 simple line drawings a wide range of external and internal eye diseases. Chapter 7 is an alphabetical list of systemic diseases with their ocular features. Ophthalmic techniques, from visual acuity testing to indirect ophthalmoscopy, are collected together in chapter 8. The first half dozen chapters deal with anatomy, visual disorders (i.e., refractive errors and strabismus), the red eye, ocular trauma, retinal disease, and neuro-ophthalmology.

This small book is surprisingly comprehensive and up to date: radial keratotomy for myopia receives a cautious mention, with about as many reservations as intraocular lenses. The applanation tonometer is ignored, in favour of the Schiøtz instrument ('sterilised' by an alcohol wipe). The subject is not made ridiculous; it is a serious book interspersed with a few amusing drawings in the early chapters, and a few quips like advising breath mints if you do ophthalmoscopy on the patient's left eye with your right eye. The lack of colour pictures is a handicap in a colourful specialty.

The author has some success in simplifying the subject for students in the USA, deprived of clinical instruction—'most medical schools do not have a required course in ophthalmology.' Naturally I would advocate reinstatement of an important subject, though that would deprive us in Britain of some keen elective students who enliven our summer months.

CALBERT I. PHILLIPS

Focus on Vision. By R. A. WEALE. Pp. 194. £5.75. Hodder and Stoughton: Sevenoaks, Kent. 1982.

This is a most stimulating book. To read it is rather like going on a conducted coach tour through vaguely (as far as

this reviewer is concerned) familiar country. There are frequent stops where our guide (an engaging fellow who is hugely enjoying the trip himself) gives longer or shorter dissertations on points of interest on the way. However, because of the limits imposed by a tight time schedule he cannot be expected to tell us about everything we pass by. Likewise, Professor Wheale, who is limited by the space available, cannot be expected in a small book of less than 200 pages to cover the whole field of ophthalmic physiology. He restricts himself therefore largely to areas which are advancing or which merit further thought or study.

The book is in 4 sections. In the first there is some basic information on the anatomy of the eye, and, with confidence gained, the reader is gently led on into deeper waters—subjects like accommodation, photoreceptors, electrical responses, cortical receptors, and so on. Section 2 is mainly concerned with some controversial matters such as circadian rhythms and section 3 with the development and aging of the eye. The last section, which many will find the most interesting, deals with visual perceptions, colour vision, stereoscopic vision, optical illusions, and the like.

There is a very full bibliography in which the author modestly includes only a few of his many contributions to the literature.

J. H. DOBREE

Ophthalmology. Vol. 1. Disorders of the Vitreous, Retina and Choroid. Eds. JACK J. KANSKI AND PETER H. MORSE. Pp. 274. £25.00. Butterworths: Sevenoaks, Kent. 1983.

The title and format of this first volume in a series of international medical reviews encourage the reader to believe that a serious attempt is being made to present the most up to date and accurate information on the subject. On closer inspection, however, it is apparent that little effort has been made to co-ordinate the work of the individual contributors to achieve this common goal or reach an even standard. While superlative efforts have been made by some contributors to produce well structured and thoughtful overviews of their subjects, others have done little more than reiterate personal views which do not necessarily reflect the trend of current opinion.

What have the editors contributed? Is it significant that their own contributions are among the weakest in the book, while there is little evidence of their editorial policy or influence throughout? What is a chapter on surgery of the anterior segment doing in a book on disorders of the vitreous, retina, and choroid? How can a serious work concerned with vitreoretinal disease discuss massive periretinal proliferation in 3 pages? Why is the use of silicone oil completely ignored in the section on epiretinal membranes and massive periretinal proliferation and yet given a separate chapter of its own sandwiched between 2 excellent accounts of closed intraocular microsurgery? Why do some authors include an extensive bibliography while others include few references or none at all?

A textbook should surely voice either the opinions and balanced views of a single author or present the meticulous compilation and amalgamation of the views of others arranged by an editor or editors. As the first in a series based on the latter format this volume fails to set a good example.

Forewarned is forearmed, and the selective reader will quickly find his way to the outstanding contributions, such as those on disorders of the retinal pigment epithelium and on closed intraocular microsurgery, and may cheerfully cease concentrated reading at the end of chapter 13.

P. K. LEAVER

Problems of Normal and Genetically Abnormal Retinas. Eds. R. M. CLAYTON, J. HAYWOOD, H. W. RREADING, A. WRIGHT. Pp. 388. £19.00. Academic Press: London. 1982.

These are the proceedings of a symposium held in Edinburgh in September 1981, covering the biological, structural, and functional aspects of inherited degenerative conditions of the vertebrate retina. The various papers are grouped into: cellular and molecular biology of the retina, biochemistry and neuropharmacology, animal models and human disease, and differential diagnosis. While these proceedings will be of particular interest to research workers in this field, they should also be useful to clinicians interested in this group of inherited retinal disorders.

BARRIE JAY

The Windows of Soul: Psychological Physiology of the Human Eye and Primary Glaucomas. By ROBERT KUGELMANN. Pp. 258. £16.00. Associated University Presses: London. 1983.

This refreshing and rather disconcerting book approaches the form, function, and disorders of the human body simply as being expressions of our individual experience, imagery, and mythology. It concentrates on the eye, and discusses at length the significance of glaucoma as a disorder of the soul rather than of the soma.

Established eye doctors, sedimented in their scientific lore, may be dumbfounded by this alien reappraisal, so confidently and cogently expressed; and they may well boggle at conclusions like these (which were highlighted in italics):

p. 105: 'the principal point remains: glaucoma is a metamorphosis of the body such that one sees with eyes that dream even when one is wide awake.'

p. 119: 'To constellate Medusa is the telos of glaucoma: to face her, to look through her stony eyes. The glaucopsis is Medusa's head.'

p. 137: 'At the center of such eyes, we find an imaginal transformation of light into aqueous, and of aqueous into light, the dark light of Hades.'

p. 141: 'The quickness with which closed-angle glaucoma strikes resembles the violent and sudden rape of Persephone.'

p. 206: 'we have sought the true names of the parts of the eye and of the process of glaucoma in order to bring soul from invisibility into visible presence.'

Yet they cannot fail to marvel at the scholarship and dedication of the author, and envy the ordered exuberance of his imaginative forays. How tame our own fantasies seem in contrast! But at least next time we meet a hardened eyeball we can offer a fleeting homage to Medusa and Poseidon, to the astral bodies and our Freudian surrogates, and to these wayward and hitherto unrecognised evocations of man's immortal soul.

P. D. TREVOR-ROPER