

The first section is devoted to disorders of eye movement and there are chapters on the diagnosis and therapy of squint by Hugonnier and Magnard, on squints in children by Otto, on amblyopia also by Otto, and on nystagmus by Kommerell. This is followed by a large section on the retina with contributions by Henkes, Deutmann, and Archer. Finally there are two small chapters on glaucoma-related subjects—gonioscopy and secondary glaucoma, both by Slezak.

The illustrations throughout are of the highest quality, and each chapter is followed by a comprehensive list of references. It is difficult in a book of such uniformly high standard to single out any particular aspect that requires special mention over the rest, equally difficult to find any fault. The contributions on squint and on retinal disease can be classed as definitive studies, and the only criticism is that the mixture is almost too rich, for we are presented under one cover with three books that could achieve great success independently.

The editors are to be congratulated on this contribution to ophthalmic teaching, and the German-speaking ophthalmologists for whom this book is written are to be envied. We look forward eagerly to part 2 and to volume 2 in the series.

T. J. FFYTCHÉ

The Eye and its Disorders. 2nd Ed. By PATRICK D. TREVOR-ROPER and PETER V. CURRAN. Pp. 628. £45.00. Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford, 1984.

This is a beautifully written preamble to ophthalmology. Nowhere in ophthalmology, or indeed in other scientific textbooks, will you find such exquisite English and beautifully constructed sentences. It is a delight to read, and sets out to be a guide for the candidate for the diploma in ophthalmology.

However, compared with the more tightly written and highly informative currently available textbooks it appears to be verbose and long-winded. The use of lists and diagrams to summarise a particular disease and its complications would have avoided some of this criticism. It also attempts to deal with too much, so that many important subjects are inadequately discussed. Both the clinical and surgical management of many disorders are mentioned. Inevitably in a book of this size the surgical treatment of many of the disorders is dealt with only superficially, and this aspect could safely have been excluded and left to the specialist surgical textbooks. For instance, in the treatment of congenital cataract by aspiration, only the push/pull method has been described, although there are many alternative methods available, including the use of modern aspiration machines.

Some curious omissions arise. The assessment of macular function in the presence of a dense cataract makes no mention of the Maddox rod test, the definition of optic nerve atrophy is poor, and the indications for corneal grafts are not complete, there being no place in modern surgery for the use of lamellar graft for herpes simplex keratitis, as the recurrence rate is so high. The clinical description of herpes zoster ocular involvement is poor, there being no mention of any epithelial disorders. The optic section is

inadequate, and could safely have been left to more specialised optics books. There is no mention of the optics of any instruments, there are no diagrams of the optics of refraction (and do people still use a mirror and lamp, and not a streak retinoscope, nowadays?). Not everyone would agree with atropic refraction for children, when modern cycloplegics are available. A section on spectacle intolerances would have been appreciated, and the section on ocular pharmacology is much too brief, with no mention of the action of drugs on the pupil. In the section on prisms no mention is made of their therapeutic use in orthoptic exercises.

The book serves as an easily read introduction to ophthalmology.

JAMES MCGILL

Atlas of Ophthalmic Ultrasonography and Biometry. By H. J. SHAMMAS. Pp. 321. £40.00. C. V. Mosby: St. Louis. 1984.

This book contains seven chapters, an appendix, and a glossary of terms. The first chapter, entitled 'Basic physics, technology and instrumentation,' is useful to the extent that it describes some of the jargon peculiar to ophthalmic ultrasound, as does the glossary of terms at the end of the book. Commercially available ophthalmic ultrasound instrumentation including biometric units are discussed, and the published B scans were taken using three mechanical sector systems (Ocuscan 400 from Sonometrics Systems Inc., the Ultrascan 11 from Xenotech-Cooper Medical Devices Corporation, and the Bronson-Turner unit from Storz Instrument Company). The A scans were obtained using the Kretz 7200MA ophthalmic A scan system.

The 'meat' of the book is an attempt to correlate ultrasonic findings in vitreoretinal disorders (including trauma and foreign bodies) and tumours (both intraocular and orbital) with their pathological basis and clinicosurgical implications. The page layout for this exercise is attractive, but the associated text tends to be oversimplified and confusing at best and is utterly misleading at worst. The B scan criteria of choroidal detachment, for example, are described as multiple areas of convex echogenic lines which do not involve the nerve head, so that the pathognomic signs of anterior extension to the scleral spur and tethering of the vortex ampullae and short ciliary artery insertions are left either to the reader's own extrapolation or to his imagination. The pathogenic sequences are remarkable for their naivety. We are variously informed that fibrous vitreous membranes are caused by organisation of vitreous haemorrhage; that vitreous membranes get thicker, attach to the retina, and cause traction retinal detachments on follow-up; that the coronal membrane of the triangle in massive preretinal retraction is a cyclitic membrane, etc. Remarkably, the text on vitreoretinal pathology (including that from trauma) never actually mentions the fundamentals, that is, the vitreous base and the concept, causes, and effects of epiretinal membranes.

The author stresses the value of A scan techniques in orbital diagnosis and follows the views of Ossoinig especially in measurement of the optic nerve diameter and ocular muscle thickness; the fact that such measurements defy the application of natural physical laws to the orbit should not



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