

away much of the value of several chapters. Ophthalmology par excellence requires colour illustration, and much of the careful text loses its point without colour, for example, in describing 'red' lesions in the retina with a black-and-white fundus photograph. It is also very unsatisfactory for the medical student not to have any simple details of treatment when required. Students have a good knowledge of pharmacology and not even to mention simple antibiotic eye drops in the treatment of conjunctivitis is a remarkable omission. Altogether this is a new book which has not really come off, and it would leave the medical student feeling there were too many loose ends not tied up, especially with regard to simple treatments. JAMES L KENNERLEY BANKES

**Visual Disorders in the Handicapped Child.** By JOHN L GOBLE. Pp. 287, SFr. 127.00. Marcel Dekker: New York. 1984.

This excellent book fulfils everything that it sets out to do. The author aims to help general physicians, paediatricians, and neurologists, but also intends to interest ancillary personnel who deal with handicapped children in understanding their visual disorders. Most of the conditions are explained simply, and there are ample further references for those wishing to look further into the subject.

Although the book is laid out in a logical and compartmented way, the author's experience comes through in the practical and clear manner in which he explains many of the conditions and problems that these children have. There is a good author and subject index. If there are any criticisms it may be that there is not enough detail on practical aspects on helping blind babies and children, or on practical aspects of vision testing by non-ophthalmologists. In spite of these criticisms, however, I think that this is a useful book. DAVID TAYLOR

**The Visual System in Myelin Disorders.** Eds. A NEETENS, A LOWENTHAL, J J MARTIN. Pp. 518. Dfl 225.00. Junk: The Hague. 1984.

This book has resulted from a long collaboration in Antwerp between an ophthalmologist (A Neetens), a neurochemist (A Lowenthal), and a neuropathologist (JJ Martin). A further eight Belgian contributors were invited in addition to 16 American and 24 European contributors, thus producing a truly international book.

The book is subdivided into sections on basic research into normal and abnormal myelin, and the pathophysiology of myelination. The major section and indeed the major part of the book is devoted to human and animal myelin disorders. This section includes a number of distinguished experts discussing the diagnosis and clinical features of demyelination in the afferent visual system and in the ocular motor system. The metabolic disorders from metachromatic dystrophy to Menkes' disease are fully described. Finally there is a short chapter on treatment.

The chapters vary in length, but on the whole the standard is good. This book therefore provides a comprehensive review on myelin and its disorders, but some com-

plex chapters on basic aspects of myelin may frighten many ophthalmologists away. They should, however, avail themselves of the opportunity to browse through this book, for the emergence of nuclear magnetic resonance scans provides an exciting glimpse into the future. They may also obtain stimulating thoughts from other chapters, such as why conjunctival biopsy is used for the diagnosis of neuro-lipidoses but is not used by ophthalmologists for other diagnostic purposes. M D SANDERS

## Notes

### Adaptive processes

An international symposium on 'Adaptive processes in visual and oculomotor systems' will be held on 16-20 September 1985 at Asilomar, California, USA. Details from D Zee, Conference cochairman, Department of Neurology, Johns Hopkins Hospital, 600 N Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA.

### Classification of retinopathy of prematurity

An international committee with Professor A Garner (UK) in the chair prepared an 'International classification of retinopathy of prematurity.' This classification was published in the *BJO* last October (*Br J Ophthalmol* 1984; **68**: 690-7). It has also appeared in *Pediatrics* 1984; **74**: 127-33 (July 1984 issue), *Archives of Ophthalmology* 1984; **102**: 1130-4 (August 1984 issue), and *Ophthalmology* 1984; **4**: 13-6 in an edited version. It has been submitted for publication to several other journals likely to reach an audience concerned with the problems it discusses.

### Metabolic eye disease

The seventh symposium of the International Society on Metabolic Eye Disease will be held at Parma, Italy, on 11-14 May 1986. Theme: 'Neonatal aspects.' For free communications a topic and 500-word abstract should be sent before 1 November 1985 to Heskell M Haddad, MD, Program Chairman, 1125 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10128, USA.

### Correction

In the article entitled 'Contrast sensitivity and visual disability in chronic simple glaucoma' by J E Ross, A J Bron, and D D Clarke (*Br J Ophthalmol* 1984; **68**: 821-7) an error occurred in Table 2. The degrees of freedom referred to in an analysis of variance, and in each case the figure 1 should have been separated from the subsequent three figures as follows: 1, 184; 1, 204; 1, 210; 1, 141; 1, 106; 1, 113; 1, 101; 1, 104.



## The Visual System in Myelin Disorders

M D Sanders

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