optical principles of many of the instruments which we use are fully and clearly elucidated. It is, however, something of a surprise to see a picture of a very old model of the Haag-Streit slit-lamp. Pseudophakia is approached in a rather academic manner, and some reference to the SRF formula and the various instruments used in computing the required power of an intraocular lens would add completeness to this section. Ultrasound is dealt with, but no indication is given of the accuracy with which one can predict the axial length of the eye. The subject of keratometry does not cover the instruments used for operative assessment, and indeed the subject of aphakic astigmatism is lightly dismissed. Some statements about clinical examination will cause a little surprise—for example, the view that it is pointless to do a cover test without spectacles if the patient wears them. At a more advanced level one might have expected to see some reference to modern surgical treatments for myopia.

It is not easy to imagine that this book will have a vital place in the library of every ophthalmologist, but it certainly should be present in major reference institutions.

J D ABRAMS

Symposium on the Laser in Ophthalmology and Glaucoma Update. Transactions of the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology. By H BECKMAN, D G CAMPBELL, F A L'ESPERANCE JR, M A MAINSTER, H A QUIGLEY, R N SHAFFER, R J SIMMONS, R C WATZKE, J WISE. Pp. 342. £70·00. Mosby: St Louis. 1985.

The 33rd meeting of the New Orleans Academy of Ophthalmology was held in March 1984. A symposium on glaucoma was held in 1961 and again in 1975. The latest *Transactions* covers more than just glaucoma but discusses uses of the laser in ophthalmology. There are nine participants contributing to twenty-five chapters, seventeen of which are on glaucoma with or without laser treatment. The remaining eight chapters include discussions on laser systems and photo vaporisation therapy (L'Esperance) and three chapters on laser treatment of macular disease (Watzke). However, the bulk of the topics and the round-table discussions are on glaucoma. They make no pretence to cover the subject in depth but present views of selected topics. These topics include excellent chapters on optic nerve cupping (Quigley) and pigment dispersion glaucoma (Campbell). There are also contributions reflecting the ingenuity of ophthalmologists in finding uses for the laser in the treatment of less common glaucoma conditions. The round-table discussions are good, that by Shaffer clearly a tour de force (unfortunately it is a verbatim report of a slide show and it loses much significance without illustrations).

These views are directed at the general ophthalmologist and as such prove interesting reading. Together they form a book to borrow from the library but not necessarily to buy.

ROGER A HITCHINGS

Viral Diseases of the Eye. By RICHARD W. DARRELL. Pp. 341. $51·00. Lea and Febiger: Philadelphia. 1985.

This book contains contributions from many respected research workers in the field of ocular virology and associated infections. Most groups of viruses contain species capable of causing ocular disease. The spectrum of diseases caused include acute conjunctivitis, keratitis and blepharitis following infection of the external eye tissues, anterior and posterior uveitis following infection of the uveal tract, optic neuritis, oculomotor paresis, and meningoencephalitis following infection of the central and peripheral nervous system, and the induction of tumours. Other viruses, for example HTLV-III, while they may not directly infect the eye, may have an indirect effect by increasing susceptibility to other infections.

Individual chapters deal in turn with the various viruses responsible for ocular diseases and outline the diseases caused by these viruses, their clinical features, epidemiology, laboratory diagnosis, and methods of prevention and treatment. Eleven chapters on the herpes viruses, five on paramyxoviruses but only two on adenoviruses and single chapters on poxviruses, papovaviruses, picornaviruses, togaviruses, and orthomyxoviruses reflect the clinical concern, amount of research, and state of detailed knowledge of diseases caused by these viruses rather than their prevalence in the population. Four final chapters deal with immune mechanisms in viral ocular disease, the role of viruses in ocular tumours, the differential diagnosis of follicular conjunctivitis, and Thygeson's superficial punctate keratitis. The text is generally well supported by tables and photographs of the clinical conditions, histological sections, and electron micrographs of the viruses. There is unfortunately no index to the figures and the introduction is for some reason missing from the table of contents.

Altogether this book provides a valuable source of information on the present state of knowledge of ocular virology for both the clinician and the research worker. My only concern is that the balance of space allocated to the various groups of viruses, while inevitable, may tend to belittle the problems presented by some viruses such as the adenoviruses and picornaviruses, and concentrate research into certain popular areas like the herpes viruses. Clearly there are large gaps in our knowledge of the mechanisms of ocular pathogenicity and methods of treatment of many of the viral diseases described in this book.

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Viral Diseases of the Eye

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