

Photobiology of the Skin and Eye. Edited by Edward M Jackson. Pp. 152. US\$59.50. Marcel Dekker, New York. 1986.

The combination of different disciplines is held to advance knowledge much as the fusion of unrelated chromosomes is biologically advantageous. This must be the rationale which gave rise to this sparsely illustrated book. It covers general principles of photobiology, including some of the relevant radiometry; phototoxicity, photoimmunology and photoallergy, photocarcinogenesis; how to protect oneself from the sun; photochemotherapy; and something on the eye. Each chapter is written by two to four different authors, and the editor has modestly distanced himself from them. I asked myself, for example, how much greater is the UV risk to the conjunctiva than to the skin. I could work it out from the information provided but would have appreciated cross-references. The editing also allowed names to be misspelt and references left incoherent.

The eye is covered after a fashion. The mention of the elementary warning symptom of exposure to UV, namely fuzzy vision owing to lenticular and/or corneal fluorescence, escaped me. Noxious effects of light on the retina were established in man before Noell observed them in the rat, and modern scientists do not use foot-candles. Other parts of this chapter are also out of date. The notion that surgeons are going to employ research procedures to monitor ocular and visual changes in surveillance procedures is interesting but unsupported by evidence. Such strictures apart, the chapter on the eye provides a useful introduction to ocular radiation care, and the book as a whole is valuable with its bibliographies.

ROBERT WEALE

Soft Implant Lenses in Cataract Surgery. By Thomas R Mazzocco, George M Rajachich, Edward Epstein. Pp. 150. £27.15. John Wiley: Chichester, Sussex. 1986.

This is a stimulating paperback that addresses some of the problems and prospects of soft deformable intraocular lenses currently being investigated for use in small-section cataract surgery. It is a multiauthor text, with chapters discussing the chemical, physical, and biological properties of silicones and hydrogels, lens design, and experimental and clinical experiences of implantation. There are didactic chapters on extracapsular techniques and phakoemulsification. Some chapters are better and more pertinent than others, but it is an interesting book that discusses current knowledge of these new lens materials.

JONATHAN JAGGER

Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series 45. Detection and Measurement of Visual Impairment in Pre-Verbal Children. Edited by Barrie Jay. Pp. 403. £60.95. Martinus Nijhoff: Dordrecht, Netherlands. 1986.

This volume contains the collected papers presented at a workshop held in London in 1986, where ophthalmologists and visual physiologists reviewed current original work in measurement and understanding of visual function in children. It is hoped the over-long title will not be a

deterrent to its potential readership of paediatric ophthalmologists and visual physiologists, because there is much of interest here. There are 37 separate papers and the associated discussion. Five major topics are presented, namely, normal development of vision, electrophysiological tests, measurement of visual acuity, measurement of other functions (such as visual fields), and screening of preverbal children. The mixed variety of type faces throughout the volume is a detraction in the presentation unfortunately, as the heavier type gives a greater impression of emphasis. It is appreciated that the need to publish quickly gives rise to this format.

The sections on normal development of vision, the measurement of visual acuity, and screening of preverbal children are likely to be of greatest interest to ophthalmologists and comprehensively cover the current views. Preferential looking receives a great deal of attention, and there now seems to be general agreement that this test in its various styles is reliable in infants in the assessment of visual acuity. Estimation of visual fields in infants, however, remains an uncertain and inaccurate test except under research conditions.

The book provides an excellent compilation of recent papers which has much practical and theoretical information for ophthalmologists caring for children, and visual physiologists. The marrying of theory and practice is satisfactorily achieved in this volume, and it can be recommended for reading and reference.

JAMES L KENNERLEY BANKES

Eye Diseases in Hot Climates. By JOHN SANDFORD-SMITH. Pp. 240. £7.50. Wright: Bristol. 1986.

This is a most useful, practical book for general medical practitioners and eye auxiliaries working in developing countries. The text is clearly written and is supported by excellent diagrams and colour plates of common eye conditions which the general doctor and eye auxiliary are likely to encounter in third world countries. Emphasis has been placed on the commoner eye problems and on those conditions which are preventable or treatable. In particular the chapters on nutritional corneal ulceration, trachoma, and onchocerciasis show in good illustrations some of the important eye conditions which are encountered in hot climates.

In addition this book has the great advantage of being readily intelligible to many whose English level is only intermediate. The book is excellently priced. I highly recommend it as an essential part of the library of any general doctor working in developing countries, and also as a good reference book for eye auxiliaries and eye nurses who are being trained to deal with the common eye problems which cause so much unnecessary blindness in third world countries.

A FOSTER

1985 Year Book of Ophthalmology. Edited by J Terry Ernest. Pp. 306. £41.00. Blackwell: Oxford. 1985.

The latest in a long series of *Year Books* has a new and more readable format with easy reference to the source publications, and the editor, Dr J Terry Ernest, has compiled an excellent 1985 volume.



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