

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 Other parts of this chapter are also out of date.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.

There are 14 sections with selected articles from the world's medical literature relating to important findings and innovations published during 1984, the year preceding the *1985 Year Book*. The sections cover every important aspect of ophthalmology from eyelids to basic sciences. The lay out is excellent and the abbreviated original articles mostly read well and provide a stimulus to refer to original articles. Not surprisingly the greatest number of articles referred to are in the sections on retina and glaucoma and the fewest under vitreous. Refractive surgery covers some well balanced articles, and the editor has done well in general to produce an even emphasis throughout the *Year Book*.

It is only after a series of stretching decisions that an editor is led to select articles for inclusion in a review of the world's ophthalmological literature as in the *Year Book*. The *1985 Year Book* is an even and very readable selection of the more innovative articles and is highly recommended for all ophthalmologists. It is a pleasure to have articles selected to provide a balanced review and to guide the readership to other source articles.

JAMES L KENNERLEY BANKES

Evoked Potentials. Eds. Roger Q Cracco and Ivan Bodis-Wollner. Pp. 551. £70.00. John Wiley, Sussex. 1986.

This is the third volume in the series 'Frontiers of Clinical Neuroscience'. The book comprises 49 chapters on different subjects relating to the study of evoked electrical responses recorded from the brain and spinal cord. In effect the chapters are separate papers and stand by themselves. Roger Cracco and Ivan Bodis-Wollner have drawn together many distinguished contributors, making the whole a useful review for students, clinicians, and research workers. The book is divided into eight sections dealing with basic science aspects, animal models, diagnostic uses as well as paediatric, and surgical and psychiatric applications. All types of evoked responses are considered, and the Ophthalmologist will find about 15 relevant chapters. Applications of the VEP in children are of special interest in section VII and there are two chapters on the pattern ERG earlier in the book. There is also an up-to-date review of the VEP in human albinism.

The balance of the book reflects the current state of research in the subject and the recent increase in interest in auditory, vestibular, and somatosensory responses. It certainly should be purchased by departmental libraries and those with a special interest in the subject. N R GALLOWAY

Diagnosis and Management of Ocular Motility Disorders. By JOYCE MEIN AND BRIAN HARCOURT. Pp. 367. £45.00. Blackwell, Oxford. 1986.

The authors of this book are an orthoptist and ophthalmologist, both of the greatest distinction. It fulfils a need that has long existed for a sensible, well balanced, and down to earth text which addresses the complex field of orthoptics and ocular motility. It is equally suitable as a guide to orthoptists, who will learn much from the sections on management of motility problems, and as a clear account for ophthalmologists as to exactly what all those incomprehensible things on the orthoptic report actually mean.

The book is divided into three sections. Part I concerns history taking and patient examination, including modern tests for visual function. There are also chapters on refraction, detection and measurement of the deviation, and assessment of binocular function. Section II covers principles of non-surgical and surgical management, with clear accounts of spectacles, exercises, and eyedrops, followed by a comprehensive account of the most valuable surgical procedures, with notes on complications and re-operations. The excellent illustrations in this section are the work of Bruce Noble, also a consultant ophthalmologist at Leeds.

Section III addresses the management of specific conditions in the field of ocular motility disorders, with sections on amblyopia, concomitant strabismus, microtropia, disorders of accommodation/convergence, paralytic and restrictive strabismus, supranuclear, and internuclear disorders, and nystagmus.

Overall the book fulfils its intentions admirably, is well balanced and highly readable, and has an excellent index. There is also a very useful 10-page bibliography. All reviewers have their quibbles, however, though mine are few. I feel unhappy about the use of the term 'paralytic' as a synonym for 'incomitant' in chapters 18 and 19. The procedure of anterior and temporal transposition of the anterior half of the superior oblique muscle (illustrated on page 169) is once more called the 'Harada-Ito procedure' rather than the Fells's modification of that operation. The section on botulinum toxin injection for squint is perhaps a little lukewarm, and the dosage of toxin advocated seems rather on the high side. In every other respect I can warmly recommend this book. It should be in every resident and orthoptic library and should remain popular for many years to come. J P LEE

Techniques in Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery. Edited by Ralph E. Wesley. Pp. 482. £46.00. John Wiley: Chichester. 1986.

This book could well be titled 'An anthology of ophthalmic plastic surgical techniques', because it is a collection of various surgeons' favourite contributions to the subject. It is divided into sections covering the whole field of ophthalmic plastic surgery, including general techniques, entropion, ectropion, ptosis, lid retraction, facial nerve disorders, reconstruction, cosmetic surgery, orbital and socket surgery. Nothing is too minor for inclusion, and there are for instance two chapters on meibomian cyst excisions. But there are also some major and innovative chapters such as those on calvarial bone grafting with a vascularised pedicle and different types of forehead and brow lift.

The 101 contributors are largely drawn from, and constitute about a third of the total membership of, the members of the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. This society has moderately stringent criteria for membership, and the techniques described can therefore reasonably be expected to work well in practice. One contributor who is not a member of this society is the art editor, who is to be congratulated on co-ordinating such excellent diagrams. It is interesting to speculate that her chapter came from drawing the diagrams for one of the other contributors and wondering why he did not do the



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James L Kennerley Bankes

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