

surgery in a better way, such as she subsequently describes. Such is the way new techniques and modifications are continuously evolving and how much of this book has come to be produced.

The editor must be complimented on the magnificent way in which he has controlled the verbosity of most of the contributors. Only the essential facts required to describe techniques have been permitted, and clarity has been achieved with copious diagrams. Where different surgeons favour different techniques for achieving similar goals both techniques are included, such as mucous membrane grafting and vein grafting around Jones tubes for maintaining a conduit, and ear cartilage and sclera for preventing entropion after Cutler-Beard reconstructions. Rarely is anything included which some might feel is positively contraindicated, but the removal of an ellipse of skin for the correction of entropion and the excision of tarsus and posterior lamella of an eyelid to correct ptosis in patients with conjunctival scarring, which makes eversion of an eyelid difficult, are both techniques which must be treated with extreme caution by surgeons not very well versed in eyelid surgical techniques.

For anybody practising ophthalmic plastic surgery in either a major or minor way this book has plenty of surgical 'pearls' to offer, and I have seldom enjoyed reading a book more. It is not, however, and is not intended to be, a comprehensive textbook, and no attempt is made to describe a logical series of operations to cover the spectrum of ophthalmic plastic surgery, nor does the editor comment on or criticise the individual contributions. If the reader has a basic knowledge of ophthalmic plastic surgery, however, he will find this book very enjoyable, instructive, easy to assimilate, and in short warmly to be recommended.

RICHARD COLLIN

**Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.** By MARTIN HATT. Pp. 166. DM 128.00. Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart. 1986.

This is an excellent short textbook of ophthalmic plastic surgery encompassing surgery of the eyelids, lacrimal apparatus, and orbit. The author states in the preface that he has selected procedures which are logical based on the aetiological pathophysiology and which have proved their value in a large number of cases. He also states that he does not attempt an all encompassing review of ophthalmic and surgical literature, and yet I have seldom read a textbook on this subject which is more extensively referenced. Although the author gives a clear opinion of his choice of operation, the reader is given every opportunity to study alternative thoughts and ideas by the very extensive, accurate, and current references which are referred to throughout the text and make this a work of considerable scholarship despite the book's deceptively small size. It certainly gives the reader an excellent base from which both to practise and to search for new treatment methods, which the author states is one of his hopes. Professor Blodi points out in the foreword that the primary function of the adnexa is the protection of the eyeball and the preservation of vision and that only the ophthalmologist is trained to keep these principles in mind. I agree wholeheartedly with this, and, contrary to the author's statement that 'only experts in the

field of ophthalmic plastic surgery should be involved in these procedures', I feel that this book constitutes a very sound base for the general ophthalmologist to practise and improve his surgery.

There are chapters on surgical anatomy, surgical principles, anaesthesia, entropion, ectropion, ptosis, lacrimal drainage, the conjunctiva, excision of lid tumours, eyelid reconstruction, the orbit, cosmetic lid surgery, and trauma. All are extensively illustrated with excellent diagrams and clinical photographs showing pre- and postoperative patients, but there are no photographs of the operations themselves. The author very much believes in the reconstruction of three eyelid layers, the skin, middle layer of orbicularis muscle, and the deep layer of tarsoconjunctiva. There are particularly good sections on haemostasis, the differences between local anaesthetics, lacrimal surgery including canalicular repair, the pathological examination of excised lid tumours, and socket reconstruction, in which the author includes his own very practical techniques for reconstructing the conjunctival fornices with a MIRA silicone hemisphere. He holds this in situ with tarsorrhaphies rather than the more usual techniques of fixation to periosteum or bone. The section on upper lid entropion is sketchy, reflecting probably the lack of Swiss patients with this problem. Certain procedures are omitted, such as the posterior approach to ptosis correction and the repair of medial canthal tendon injuries, and other procedures are not covered as fully as might be anticipated. There is a lack of didactic guidelines for the inexperienced on how much levator muscle to resect in ptosis surgery or how much to recess the lid retractors in the correction of lid retraction, though the techniques themselves are adequately described. The indications for specific operations such as are involved in eyelid reconstruction are described but not very precisely for the novice. Techniques of orbitotomies are described briefly, but it is difficult to get much benefit from a short section on orbital surgery without embarking on a much larger discussion of the diagnosis and management of orbital disease, and clearly this is contraindicated in a book of this size.

In summary, this is an excellent short textbook of ophthalmic plastic surgery which has been very well researched. There is enough detail, aided by the excellent diagrams, for anyone to perform competently a wide range of surgical procedures, and the reader is given a very good overview of the whole subject from which to progress if he so wishes.

J R O COLLIN

**Contemporary Issues in Fetal and Neonatal Medicine. 2. Retinopathy of Prematurity.** Eds. WILLIAM A SILVERMAN AND JOHN T FLYNN. Pp. 303. £32.50. Blackwell: Oxford. 1985.

The editors state in the preface of this book that it is not intended to be a comprehensive text on retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) but might more appropriately be subtitled 'current controversies'. There are 12 chapters including: the new International Classification, pathology, animal models, perinatal retinal vascular physiology, pathogenesis, vitamin E, surgical treatment, and the sequelae of ROP. There are also sections on the monitoring of oxygen

therapy, the epidemiology of ROP, and developmental issues of blind children.

The book is easy to read and, being aimed at the paediatrician as well as the ophthalmologist, is relatively free of jargon. Inevitably some sections are more successful than others, but generally the standard is very high and the chapters well referenced. Those interested in the problems of analysing incidence statistics (not only ROP) are advised to read the interesting chapter on epidemiology by Alberman. A section devoted to the clinical evolution of ROP would have been welcome to give a clinical feel to this difficult subject: when does ROP start, how does it progress or regress, and the signs and time course of the development of cicatricial disease? Indeed the best description of the acute lesion is contained in the section on pathology by Garner.

The ophthalmologist looking to this book for guidance on whether to perform cryotherapy on an individual infant will be disappointed: these issues have yet to be resolved, but at least here the problem is discussed in a sensible manner. Despite a few minor qualifications this book can be enthusiastically recommended. It is by far the best currently available on ROP and is excellent value.

A FIELDER

**Fechner's Intraocular Lenses.** By JOHN J ALPAR AND PAUL U FECHNER. Pp. 499. DM 198.00. Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart. 1986.

This is a very well produced volume with some good colour photographs of intraocular lens techniques and pathology, comprehensively covering the field of intraocular lenses. The book is well up to date, inevitably covering several lens designs which are now rarely used. As with many volumes, some of the black-and-white photographs are either taken from colour slides or prints and lack quality and definition. The bibliography is excellent and especially valuable for workers researching in this field. Both authors are well known authorities, and I can thoroughly recommend this excellent volume.

J L PEARCE

**Retinopathy of Prematurity: Current Concepts and Controversies.** By A R MCPHERSON, H M HITTNER AND F L KRETZER. Pp. 237. £40.50. Blackwell: Oxford, 1986.

The editors prepared this work with the following aims: to review the pathogenesis of ROP, to examine the vitamin E dilemma, and survey the surgical treatment of ROP. With 11 of the 19 contributors coming from Houston, Texas, the book represents largely the views of this group. Many topics of interest to the clinician are covered, but unfortunately the content is often disappointing. For instance, the section on ophthalmic examination of the premature infant is seriously lacking in common sense. This is a pity, as a sensible review of examination methods including the hazards of pupillary dilating agents is much needed. Chapters on the medico-legal aspects of ROP, although relating to practice in the

USA, are worth reading. The sections on neonatal intensive care and anaesthetic considerations are superficial, but they have value in alerting the ophthalmologist to the multiplicity of systemic problems which these infants may suffer and have to be considered.

Seven chapters are devoted to the treatment of ROP by cryotherapy, scleral buckling, or vitrectomy, and, while interesting and at times excellent, all are written by surgical protagonists. As the role of cryotherapy has yet to be precisely defined, a contribution reviewing our present state of ignorance on this topic would have been welcome. The spindle cell hypothesis of the pathogenesis of ROP and the beneficial effect of vitamin E or selenium naturally occupy a great deal of this book. It is too early to know whether this theory will stand the test of time but it has certainly made researchers and clinicians question established ideas. Unfortunately in this book these ideas are presented dogmatically as established fact with little room for manoeuvre. Generally this is a difficult book to read, the style of writing is very obviously North American, some section headings are too long (one contains 26 words), and diagrams are often highly complex with legends to match. The reader who needs to know what the abbreviation IRBP stands for will have to consult the index as there is no indication in the text.

By far the most interesting chapter in this book is by Hittner and Kretzer on the differential diagnosis of ROP. This is a difficult and often neglected topic, and their approach is fresh and exciting, although there are some surprising omissions such as persistent hyperplastic primary vitreous. Nevertheless, this section is relevant not only to ROP but also to the study of ocular developmental defects.

This book cannot be recommended to the general ophthalmologist, but those with a particular interest in paediatric ophthalmology will find certain sections worth reading.

A FIELDER

**Medical Lasers: Science and Clinical Practice.** By J A S CARRUTH AND A L MCKENZIE. Pp. 269. £19.50. Adam Hilger: Bristol. 1986.

This is a most informative book written by a well-known clinician in the field of medical lasers and coauthored by a physicist who is also a laser safety officer.

The first and last chapters deal with laser history, physics, tissue interaction, and safety, and describe common surgical lasers used today and those with potential for the future. There are separate chapters on the use of lasers in different specialties, including gynaecology, dermatology, otolaryngology, surgery, and photoradiation therapy for tumours. There is a chapter on ophthalmology written by a non-ophthalmologist, which contains a number of inaccuracies, but considering the size of the book and chapter most eye topics are mentioned.

The strengths of the book are that laser physics, usually forgotten, can readily be revised, and it gives an insight into uses and possibilities for treatment in other branches in medicine.

J JAGGER



## Contemporary Issues in Fetal and Neonatal Medicine. 2. Retinopathy of Prematurity

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