Of the contributors only four out of 29 are not based in the Netherlands and about half are from Leiden University Hospital. The preface, written by Neil Miller, states that the symposium was 'aimed towards orthoptists, ophthalmologists, optometrists, neurologists and neurosurgeons'. Unfortunately in aiming for this broad spectrum of interest I think that the editors may have failed to make the book of adequate interest to the average ophthalmologist.

There is a great deal of duplication. The anatomy and applied physiology of eye movement control and the role of the parapontine reticular formation are summarised no less than five times under various chapter headings. Evidently each speaker began his talk with a brief preamble and this was not removed or rationalised in the editing process. In general the anatomy and physiology section covers the matter under review well and is well illustrated and to the point.

In the section on clinical and paraclinical examination there is a useful section on recording eye movements, but there is remarkably little on tests for bilateral acquired IVth nerve palsy and nothing on tests for the presence of cyclotorsion or on serial measurement of the field of binocular single vision. There is nothing on the cocontraction syndromes such as Duane's syndrome and vertical retraction syndrome, which are among the more interesting abnormalities of eye movement.

The section on myogenic disorders is to my mind the best in the book. There are some good papers here on the histochemistry or extraocular muscles and on ocular myopathies and myasthenia. For some reason, however, there is an entire chapter on ptosis, which is good but hardly qualifies as an eye movement abnormality.

In the neurology section the chapter on nystagmus is good so far as it goes. There is little or nothing on congenital nystagmus or latent nystagmus and nothing on the possible causation of these conditions, though earlier on in the anatomy and physiology section the work of Hoffman is briefly alluded to. This work is highly relevant to the suggested pathogenesis of congenital and latent nystagmus, and it is surprising that there is no reference to it. There is a good chapter on disorders of gaze and some useful references on vestibular eye movement disorders. There is an excellent review of the literature on ocular motor disturbance and extraparamidal disorders, with a very useful bibliography. Sadly, in the section on psychogenic eye movements it is implied that blepharospasm is a psychogenic disorder, whereas most authorities would nowadays agree that it falls much more into the realm of dystonia and can no longer be classified with other psychiatric disorders and psychosomatic disorders.

In the chapter on treatment botulinum toxin is described as a somewhat experimental treatment in the management of diplopia. Although this symposium was prepared two years ago, it would still seem an inappropriate suggestion in view of the amount that has been written on this agent in the world literature to date.

The section on eye muscle surgery and peripheral IIIrd, IVth, and VIth nerve palsy by Marc Gobin is entirely adequate so far as it goes in that it describes Professor Gobin's own approach. He is also to be congratulated in being the only contributor in the entire eye movement disorder symposium to mention bilateral IVth nerve palsies as a possible problem presenting to the clinician, but for

some reason he fails to mention extorsion of the eyes and its effect on sensory symptoms. I also find myself concerned that in a chapter on eye muscle surgery and cranial nerve palsy there is no statement or even suggestion that adjustable suture techniques can be of value in these patients.

The final chapter is an article about neurosurgical aspects of tumour induced diplopia which mainly involves the treatment of the causation of eye movement disorders, but has nothing really in it about the actual disorders themselves. It seems to be an afterthought in a symposium which otherwise has not addressed neurosurgery directly.

In addition to the points raised about the lack of coverage of so-called musculofascial syndromes and of congenital nystagmus there is almost nothing in this symposium about concomitant squint. There is no mention of the congenital strabismus syndrome with dissociated vertical deviation and latent nystagmus, and there is certainly no attempt to address the possible causation of various types of strabismus.

The book has been somewhat sloppily edited. There are many minor spelling mistakes; the index is rather poor. On a number of occasions matters covered in the text are not indexed to the right page. The illustrations are in general of reasonable quality, though the black-and-white reproduction is occasionally difficult to interpret. There is one striking illustration, Fig. 3, paper 114, which claims to show an orbital varix both before and after a Valsalva manoeuvre on the same single still photograph.

The interested reader who wants a book for his own shelves on eye movement disorders would be better advised to purchase Leigh and Zee's *The neurology of eye movements*, which has excellently organised chapters and a first class bibliography. I think that this book should probably have a place in large ophthalmic libraries, as in particular the muscle section would be hard to reproduce elsewhere, but I feel it does not really address the matter of eye movement disorders for either the clinician who wishes to learn something about the area or the person who has already got an established interest in the field. JOHN P LEE

Baillière's Clinical Immunology and Allergy: International Practice and Research. Vol 1, No 1. Endocrine and Other Organ-Oriented Autoimmune Disorders. Eds. D DONIACH AND G F BOTTAZZO. Pp. 250. £19.50. Baillière Tindall: London. 1987.

Clinical immunology has seen a rapid expansion in the last decade and to non-specialists has become a complex subject. This book is an excellent summary of recent work on organ-specific autoimmunity in relation to the aetiology of a range of diseases. Some of them are admittedly quite rare, such as Carpenter's syndrome or Schmidt's syndrome, but the net also catches some important adult diseases, such as type I diabetes mellitus. The subject cuts right across the usual boundaries of clinical medicine, and there are excellent chapters dealing with thyroid disease, gut autoimmunity, and pituitary and hypothalamic disorders. As the editors point out, even though some of these diseases are rare, if the steps in their aetiology were thoroughly understood a more effective treatment might be developed for some of the other commoner disorders—provided the mechanisms have a common basis. The test of course will be to see if the knowledge produced by the studies reported in

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this volume leads to a cure of, for example, type I diabetes mellitus. The processes are clearly complex, involving the interaction of genetic, virological, immunological, and environmental factors, so it seems difficult to pinpoint which are the key points to attack. The answers at present do not appear to be known, but the contributors to this volume demonstrate a large number of imaginative and fascinating studies in this field. For readers who want an overview of where work on organ-specific autoimmunity has reached I think this volume is to be highly recommended.

D J GALTON

A Colour Atlas of Ophthalmology. 2nd Edn. By A S M LIM AND I J CONSTABLE. Pp. 147, £10.95. Wright: Bristol. 1987.

This is the second edition in English of the colour atlas that was first published in 1979 with the aim of assisting in the teaching and practice of ophthalmology for general practitioners and other non-ophthalmologists, including nurses, medical students and paramedical staff. Both authors are internationally known, and have wide teaching experience.

The first edition was very well received and it was widely translated. The second edition more than maintains this high standard. The text is concise and well written; the illustrations are profuse and in colour and of excellent quality, though it is a little awkward to find them at the end of each chapter rather than with the text—it would probably be difficult to organise this otherwise. Both in its size and its price this book will be suitable for the pockets of those to whom it is directed. It should be highly successful.

M G FALCON

Community Ophthalmology. By SYED MODASSER ALI. Pp. 144. Tk.150. Anamoy: Bangladesh. 1985.

The significance of this small textbook is that it is the first one to appear on the emerging subject of community ophthalmology. As Professor M A Matin says in his introduction, it is 'by all standards a timely book.'

The first four chapters deal with the theoretical basis of community ophthalmology: What is a community? What is meant by community eye health? There is a good section on community diagnosis. The author puts the real cause of most blindness in the developing world where it belongs: poverty, ignorance, and lack of services in rural areas. There is a good section on community ophthalmology, emphasising the difference between conventional ophthalmic practice and the function of the ophthalmologist in his new role as a team leader. The sections dealing with primary health care and primary eye care are rather theoretical and idealistic. It is difficult actually to visualise what may be going on in a country such as Bangladesh. It would be a great benefit to the understanding of community ophthalmology if the author in future would give us the benefit of how this works out in practice in Bangladesh and some of the problems encountered and how they have been overcome.

The author has thought in detail about the function of

primary eye care workers—their role in examination of the eye and the types of treatment they may be able to undertake. By the standards of other countries these plans for the clinical activities of the primary eye care worker are somewhat ambitious, and again it would be useful to know how they work out in practice in Bangladesh.

Fifty-three pages deal with the major blinding diseases—xerophthalmia, trachoma, onchocerciasis, cataract, ocular trauma, and glaucoma. Under each heading the author discusses the aetiology, risk factors, epidemiology, and methods of intervention which are possible. There is then a detailed consideration of the action required at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels and the organisational aspects, including planning and evaluation.

The copy we were sent for review dates from 1985 and therefore inevitably some aspects are out of date. The number of blind by present WHO criteria is exaggerated. The drug ivermectin is not mentioned in the section on onchocerciasis, and the final outcome of the large number of people with temporary visual loss in the Bhopal disaster could not be included. There are many spelling mistakes.

These comments, however, do not detract from the author's achievement in being the first person to set down in one book the framework of community ophthalmology. Those involved in this emerging speciality will wish to have a copy in their library.

GORDON J JOHNSON

The book can be obtained from Anamoy Publishers, 367 Elephant Road, Dhaka-5, Bangladesh.

Near Visual Acuity Tests and Professional Vision Testing Charts. By MATTHIAS SACHSENWEGER. Pp. 62. £14.95. MTP: Lancaster, Lancs. 1987.

This book is a translation from the German and is a comprehensive collection of test types of all forms including standard printers' point types (N types) familiar to most British ophthalmologists, as well as texts in French and German and some in Gothic script, and Landolt's C and E and illiterate type diagrams. There are also specialised vocationally orientated test diagrams for microscopy and cytometer slide reading, Vernier reading, chemistry, mathematics, electronic diagrams, etc, and aerial photographs such as might be used in photogrammetry. In addition, there are unusual types such as might be displayed on video low vision aids and also samples of Moon and braille characters for those with no sight.

While the standard test types are well laid out, it is unlikely that the specialised types such as the Landolt's Cs would be of clinical value for use at 1 metre. Equally, the cytometer and microscopy plates, while demonstrating the work requirement, would be better replaced by actual slides in the cytology laboratory. The photogrammetry plates suffer from unavoidable printing problems such as variable and low contrast. The anaglyph stereo colour plate, while of interest, is not sufficiently well planned to include distractor information and would not be diagnostic. In summary, this book is likely to be a comprehensive work of reference for the varying types and vocational displays rather than a clinical test type aid.

C G F MUNTON