vascular mesenchyma were studied under the electron microscope. The comparison between traumatic and ischaemic changes in the axons, astrocytes, and oligodendrocytes with toxic, inflammatory, and metabolically-induced events leads to the conclusion of common morphogenetic mechanisms, despite the variable pathogenesis. The monograph is illustrated with numerous very impressive photomicrographs.


The 1970 Year Book of Ophthalmology comes up to its usual standard. A specially distinguished feature in this edition is the quality of the introductory essays to the various chapters, which are written by authorities on their subjects. The detailed abstracts of important papers maintain their usual quality but some of the comments are perhaps becoming a little puerile. Nevertheless this book remains essential reading for all ophthalmologists, particularly those with special interests, so that they may read about the latest advances in fields other than their own.


This is an interesting and unusual book emanating from the school of Lyons and therefore introduced by Louis Paufique. The first and main part consists of descriptions of the hundreds of syndromes associated with ophthalmology, including not only those limited to the eye itself but also systemic syndromes in which the eye is incidentally involved. In each case the clinical characteristics are briefly but clearly defined, particularly as they affect the eye. Until these are listed together, the average person does not realize how numerous they are. In this part of the book the syndromes are arranged as in a dictionary according to the names of the authors who first described them, starting with Abderhalden and ending with Wyburn-Mason. In the second chapter, which serves as a diagnostic guide, the syndromes are listed topographically as they affect the various tissues of the eye or its adnexa. In the last chapter they are arranged under general systemic headings, such as those associated with the cranio-facial dysostoses, metabolic diseases, diseases of the nervous and muscular systems, and so on. In each of the last two chapters a reference is made to the description in the first chapter. The book is very useful as a guide to the many eponymous syndromes; in future editions its interest would be greatly enhanced by the inclusion of a short note on the individual authors themselves and a reference to the papers in which the original description first appeared.


Many interesting facts emerge from the papers included in this volume. Alcohol is a factor in about half of the fatal crashes in the United States, and the blood level of alcohol is often 150 mg./100 ml. A consideration of traffic-crash patterns shows that visual acuity plays an important part in the aetiology of traffic accidents, especially after middle age. Motor cyclists are particularly prone to injury but the various influencing factors have not been fully investigated. Physical examination of drivers is of the greatest importance.