

papers are complex and difficult to analyse critically.

Perhaps for anyone not immediately interested in pupillometry the introductory paper by Janisse and the final review paper by Hess and Goodwin have the most value as an introduction to the subject. None the less, taken overall, I doubt whether such a specialized subject at a price of \$25 makes this volume of compelling interest to most ophthalmologists in the UK.

S. PILLEY

**Scientific Instruments.** By H. WYNTER and A. TURNER. 1975. Pp. 239, 285 figs, bibliog. Studio Vista, London (£12.50)

This is a most interesting book beautifully illustrated and giving descriptions of instruments used in astronomy, navigation, and surveying. Optical instruments are also included such as the microscope, telescope, and camera obscura. A chapter is even devoted to sundials.

For those who require a detailed description of the purely scientific aspects of instrument design its value is limited. However, this book can be highly recommended to those who are interested in the history of the development of scientific instruments, as well as those for whom the collection of such antiques is either a hobby or a profession.

R. F. FISHER

**A Synopsis of Ophthalmology**, 5th ed. By J. L. G. MARTIN-DOYLE and M. H. KEMP. 1975. Pp. 284, tables. Wright, Bristol (£8)

This new edition of an already established and successful book ensures that it will continue to provide an up-to-date summary of ophthalmology for the senior medical students, general practitioners, and ophthalmic house surgeons for whom it is intended. It is extremely difficult in a short volume to give a balanced view of a subject which does not go into excessive detail and yet still presents the salient information. This synopsis not only achieves this goal but emphasizes the dynamic nature of modern ophthalmology by introducing such topics as intraocular lens implants, lasers, and electronic helps for the blind. The book is laid out in a logical and orderly way but the text is only rarely supplemented and relieved by diagrams. This concession to brevity is perhaps carried too far in that even optical anomalies do not escape the ban. However it is a great tribute to the authors that they have been able to 'leaven' the script so successfully with their short anecdotes and

quotations, and the final result is an excellent short modern textbook of ophthalmology.

J. R. O. COLLIN

**Visual Optics and Refraction: A Clinical Approach.** By D. D. MICHAELS. 1975. Pp. 518, figs, tables, refs. Mosby, St Louis (London, Kimpton) (£23.40)

Dr David Michaels has contributed a scholarly and readable book, written in a relaxed and easy style with many historical and anecdotal notes. It is lucid exposition aimed at the clinician who is eager to understand the 'why' as well as the 'how' of the subject.

It is divided into three sections. Part I is basic science and covers some 130 pages in which are explained the nature of light, physical optics, ophthalmic lenses, physiological optics, and ametropia. Section II (the main part) is devoted to techniques of examination and includes a full description of objective and subjective methods applied to the measurement of visual acuity and accommodation. The final section is an evaluation, with chapters on anisometropia, presbyopia, contact lenses and, in addition, ocular motility, colour perception and subnormal vision. The whole is well illustrated with line diagrams and should prove a useful and stimulating addition to the bookshelves of the experienced refractologist as well as an excellent introduction for the beginner.

J. SILVER

**The Year Book of Ophthalmology.** Edited by W. F. HUGHES. 1975. Pp. 398, 83 figs, tables, refs. Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago (£12)

*The Year Book of Ophthalmology* 1975 marks the 75th anniversary of its publication. The concept of a year book occurred in 1900 to Gustavus P. Head, a Chicago physician who believed in selective abstracts enhanced by brief editorial comment.

Since 1959 Professor William Hughes has edited *The Year Book of Ophthalmology* and the present edition opens with an introduction from his pen outlining in masterly fashion some of the trends in growing ophthalmic knowledge since the turn of the century and especially during the last two decades, 'a retrospective view which is indeed heartening'.

As usual the book itself presents 400 pages of compact and solid information lucidly collated by editorial surveys and excellently indexed. It is a veritable mine of restless information.

S. J. H. MILLER

## Notes

### Instruction Course in Ophthalmology

25 and 26 November 1976

A course on the retina will be held at St Thomas's Hospital. It will include basic aspects, retinal involvement in systemic disease, surgical aspects of retinal disease, and case presentations.

Application forms may be obtained from Miss R. Clarke, Secretary, Eye Department, St Thomas's Hospital, London SE1.



# Visual Optics and Refraction: A Clinical Approach

J. Silver

*Br J Ophthalmol* 1976 60: 603  
doi: 10.1136/bjo.60.8.603-b

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