away much of the value of several chapters. Ophthalmology par excellence requires color illustration, and much of the
careful text loses its point without colour, for example, in
describing ‘red’ lesions in the retina with a black-and-white
fundus photograph. It is also very unsatisfactory for the
medical student not to have any simple details of treatment
when required. Students have a good knowledge of
pharmacology and not even to mention simple antibiotic
eye drops in the treatment of conjunctivitis is a remarkable
omission. Altogether this is a new book which has not really
come off, and it would leave the medical student feeling
there were too many loose ends not tied up, especially with
regard to simple treatments.

JAMES L KENNERLEY BANKEs

Visual Disorders in the Handicapped Child. By JOHN
L GOBLE. Pp. 287, SFr. 127-00. Marcel Dekker: New

This excellent book fulfills everything that it sets out to do.
The author aims to help general physicians, paediatricians,
and neurologists, but also intends to interest ancillary
personnel who deal with handicapped children in under-
standing their visual disorders. Most of the conditions are
explained simply, and there are ample further references for
those wishing to look further into the subject.

Although the book is laid out in a logical and compart-
mented way, the author’s experience comes through in the
practical and clear manner in which he explains many of the
conditions and problems that these children have. There is
a good author and subject index. If there are any criticisms
it may be that there is not enough detail on practical aspects
on helping blind babies and children, or on practical aspects
of vision testing by non-ophthalmologists. In spite of
these criticisms, however, I think that this is a useful
book.

DAVID TAYLOR

The Visual System in Myelin Disorders. Eds.
A NEETENS, A LOWENTHAL, J J MARTIN. Pp. 518.

This book has resulted from a long collaboration in
Antwerp between an ophthalmologist (A Neetens), a neuro-
chemist (A Lowenthal), and a neuropathologist (J J Martin).
A further eight Belgian contributors were invited in
addition to 16 American and 24 European contributors,
thus producing a truly international book.

The book is subdivided into sections on basic research
into normal and abnormal myelin, and the pathophysiology
of myelination. The major section and indeed the major
part of the book is devoted to human and animal myelin
disorders. This section includes a number of distinguished
experts discussing the diagnosis and clinical features of
demyelination in the different visual system and in the ocular
motor system. The metabolic disorders from metachromatic
dystrophy to Menkes’ disease are fully described. Finally
there is a short chapter on treatment.

The chapters vary in length, but on the whole the
standard is good. This book therefore provides a com-
prehensive review on myelin and its disorders, but some com-
plex chapters on basic aspects of myelin may frighten many
ophthalmologists away. They should, however, avail them-
selves of the opportunity to browse through this book, for
the emergence of nuclear magnetic resonance scans pro-
vides an exciting glimpse into the future. They may also
obtain stimulating thoughts from other chapters, such as
why conjunctival biopsy is used for the diagnosis of neuro-
lipidoses but is not used by ophthalmologists for other
diagnostic purposes.

M D SANDERS

Notes

Adaptive processes

An international symposium on ‘Adaptive processes in
visual and oculomotor systems’ will be held on 16–20
September 1985 at Asilomar, California, USA. Details
from D Zee, Conference cochairman, Department of
Neurology, Johns Hopkins Hospital, 600 N Wolfe Street,
Baltimore, MD 21205, USA.

Classification of retinopathy of
prematurity

An international committee with Professor A Garner (UK)
in the chair prepared an ‘International classification of
retinopathy of prematurity.’ This classification was published
It has also appeared in Pediatrics 1984; 74: 127–33 (July 1984
issue), Archives of Ophthalmology 1984; 102: 1130–4 (August
1984 issue), and Ophthalmolog 1984; 4: 13–6 in an edited
version. It has been submitted for publication to several
other journals likely to reach an audience concerned with
the problems it discusses.

Metabolic eye disease

The seventh symposium of the International Society on
Metabolic Eye Disease will be held at Parma, Italy, on
communications a topic and 500-word abstract should be
sent before 1 November 1985 to Heskel M Haddad, MD,
Program Chairman, 1125 Park Avenue, New York, NY
10128, USA.

Correction

In the article entitled ‘Contrast sensitivity and visual disability
in chronic simple glaucoma’ by J E Ross, A J Bron, and D D
Clarke (Br J Ophthalmol 1984; 68: 821–7) an error occurred
in Table 2. The degrees of freedom referred to an analysis of
variance, and in each case the figure 1 should have been
separated from the subsequent three figures as follows:
1, 184; 1, 204; 1, 210; 1, 141; 1, 106; 1, 113; 1, 101; 1, 104.
The Visual System in Myelin Disorders

M D Sanders

Br J Ophthalmol 1985 69: 476
doi: 10.1136/bjo.69.6.476-a

Updated information and services can be found at:
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