does at least expose them to the up-to-date assessment of current methods. The last chapter deals with complications and postoperative management. The author takes trouble to concentrate on fluid-gas exchange for postoperative pseudophakia arising from vitreotomy. It would perhaps have been appropriate for a discussion of the commonest complication of retinal surgery to have been included. This is of course failure of the procedure itself of an inadequately sealed retinal break, either due to a break that has been seen but inadequately closed or due to one that had been missed altogether.

Although it is rather expensive, the book is thoroughly enjoyable and informative, and I strongly recommend it to those entering ophthalmology who wish to become familiarised quickly with the principles of retinal surgery.

A CHIGNELL


This magnificent compendium comprises 20 parts, each describing a different systemic disease. The number of chapters indicates the huge range of topics covered. They include chromosome disorders, infectious diseases, metabolic, skeletal, and skin disorders, as well as those diseases more familiar to ophthalmologists.

Each chapter is written by an expert with a personal interest in the subject and generally follows a similar format of introduction, systemic manifestations, ocular manifestations, and management. The section of systemic manifestations in each case is particularly useful for the ophthalmologist. This information is not found in any other ophthalmological textbook but has to be searched for in the appropriate medical encyclopedia. Overall the standard is very high, though some of the bibliography is old fashioned. This is more likely to be due to a defect of the time taken to produce such a book rather than the fault of the respective authors.

All multiauthor books vary in the standard of individual chapters. Generally the information is relevant and succinct, and the illustrations, though limited by necessity, are informative. However, the management section of a few chapters is conspicuous by its absence or lack of information, particularly those on tuberculosis, histoplasmosis, and toxoplasmosis. Fortunately the chapters that seem weakest overall are the ones concerning problems most familiar to the ophthalmologist, for example, Graves' disease and herpetic disease: it is likely that the authors' brief in these cases was practically impossible to fill, and all ophthalmologists know how to obtain additional information on these subjects.

This book is great fun to dip into and succeeds in giving the ophthalmologist a comprehensive introduction to the systemic diseases associated with eye problems. It is a welcome addition to the ophthalmic literature and should be an essential part of all libraries and particularly those in general hospitals. The editors should be congratulated on their tremendous effort and proud of their appropriate dedication to Samson Weingeist and Paul Henkind, the latter a master of the importance of the eye in the diagnosis and management of systemic disease.