Book reviews

Atlas of Strabismus. By G. K. VON NOORDEN and A.E. MAUMENEE. 2nd ed., 1973. Pp. 204, 124 figs, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (£10.55)

The second edition of this splendidly presented but somewhat expensive production (5p per not very full page) is a slight but definite improvement over the first edition, which was itself a very fine illustrated guide to the basic facts of strabismus. The present work tidies up, clarifies, and slightly amplifies some features of the original.

A more recent definition of microstrabismus is given and the description of the A and V syndrome has been considerably improved. Not unexpectedly some firm statements are made on controversial topics, especially in the province of recommended surgical techniques. For example, the advice that surgery is indicated if diplopia persists for more than 2 weeks after an orbital floor fracture will stimulate someone's frontal. The same applies to the extreme measure suggested in cases of strabismus fixus.

From the orthoptic standpoint, a high standard is again maintained and there is an excellent description of the role of the major amblyoscope in the assessment of anomalous retinal correspondence.

The illustrations are of a very high order and the whole work clearly justifies its new edition. J. D. ABRAMS

Clinico-pathologic Correlation of Ocular Disease: A Text and Stereoscopic Atlas. By D. J. APPLE and M. F. RABB. 1974. Pp. 429, tables, figs, refs. Mosby, St Louis; Kimpton, London (£44.40)

This is a comprehensive (and expensive) book which combines with its clear well thought-out text a large number of illustrations, both clinical and histopathological.

The book is in eight sections dealing with – anatomy and histology, congenital malformations and paediatric ocular diseases, cornea, lens and glaucoma, uvea, diseases affecting the ocular fundus, conjunctiva and eyelids, and ocular trauma.

Where relevant a classification is given of the conditions under consideration. The complications and sequelae complete a full description of the clinico-pathological text.

In the section on choroidal and retinal diseases, which curiously does not include simple retinal detachments, the illustrations include some excellent fluorescein angiograms.

To complete the presentation, there are 16 reels of excellent stereoscopic views in colour, with a compact viewer, to enable the reader to study clinical appearances, gross pathology, and fluorescein angiograms with the added enjoyment that three-dimensional viewing provides.

There is an increasing number of visually orientated textbooks, and the authors have made an outstanding contribution in this field. They have, as the credits in the preface confirm, called upon colleagues in their own and other universities to augment the illustrations of ocular pathology and clinical appearances which they themselves have collected.

The volume includes more than enough for the undergraduate student, who will probably find that competing subjects will preclude him from its full appreciation. For residents in ophthalmology, and for pathologists with a special interest in ocular pathology, the book should have widespread appeal. For the university lecturer the clarity of the text will provide a sound basis for his lecture programme. JAMES HUDSON

Contact Lenses. Advances in Design, Fitting, Application. By J. W. SOPER. 1974. Pp. 198, figs, tables. Stratton, New York (\$16.50)

This small book consists of a group of papers given at the 19th Annual Convention of the Contact Lens Society of America. The subject matter is grouped into soft lenses, clinical reports, materials, instruments, complications of wear, and optics. There is even one paper on phako-emulsification *v.* intracapsular extraction. Interspersed are discussion group reports. Some of the papers are informative but some are cases previously reported elsewhere. The chief value of this type of book is to the delegates as commemorative of an enjoyable conference. M. RUBEN

Diabetic Retinopathy. Edited by J. R. LYNN, W. B. SNYDER, and A. VAISER. 1974. Pp. 291, tables, figs, refs. Grune & Stratton, New York (£12.85)

This book comprises some 20 papers which were presented at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas in 1972. There are 13 contributors all of whom have already made significant contributions to the subject of diabetic retinopathy. The subject is well covered by the papers. The first section of the book is devoted to the course, pathology, and microcirculation in diabetic retinopathy. The second section gives an excellent account of argon laser burns in the retina and a selection of cases for photocoagulation. Finally, several accounts are given of the procedures adopted by individual operators on various types of lesions including the disc, new vessels, and paramacular leaking capillaries. The book is warmly recommended to anyone engaged in the therapy of the condition. J. H. DOBREE

El Tratamiento del Desprendimiento de la Retina. By A. P. CARRIÓN. 1974. Pp. 706, figs, tables, refs. Universidad de Sevilla (No price given)

In this volume Dr Antonio Piñero Carrión presents a comprehensive review of retinal detachment, including, in broad outline, current concepts of treatment. The importance of preoperative procedures is emphasized and the work is profusely illustrated with both black and white, and colour prints.

Some of these however are of limited value, and the narrative style while making for easy reading detracts from the didactic value for the specialist. While the book contains extensive historical references there is little new information for the ophthalmologist experienced in the field of retinal detachment, although it could be helpful background for residents.

I found it difficult to use the bibliography for reference to the text, and would have wished to see firmer recommendations and conclusions in the final chapter.

K. CALMET

Eye Movement Disorders. By A. J. GAY, N. M. NEWMAN, J. L. KELTNER, and M. N. STROUD. 1975. Pp. 156, figs, refs. Mosby, St Louis: Kimpton, London (£8.70)

This book seeks to provide physicians in the fields of ophthalmology, neurology, neuro-surgery, and otolaryngology with an understanding of supra-nuclear disorders of eye movements expressed in terms intelligible in the different specialties.

The preface informs us that the book is intended to be pragmatic. It provides first a conceptual framework for the understanding of supra-nuclear control of eye movements and a brief description of the pertinent neuro-anatomy. Then it describes a methodical approach to the examination of eye movements with more detailed consideration of nystagmus and the vestibular motor system. Finally, the use of this approach in diagnosing eye movement disorders is outlined.

The authors have, without doubt, carried out their intention and although the presentation is perhaps an over simplification of the problems involved it is based on a wide knowledge of the literature and an extensive practical experience of the significance of disorders of ocular motility. The practical aspect is most apparent in the third chapter on examination of eye movements and the interpretation of the findings. There is certainly room for a textbook of this size in the library of any physician who meets and has to cope with the problems of eye movements. Its clinical and practical bias (even to the inclusion of a glossary) should recommend it to a wide readership.

S. J. H. MILLER

The Human Lens in Relation to Cataract. Ciba Foundation Symposium 19 (new series). 1973. Pp. 324, figs, tables, refs. Elsevier, Amsterdam (\$16.70)

The Ciba Foundation symposia have always provided an excellent platform for detailed discussion on a given topic by workers trained in many different disciplines. The symposium on the human lens is a successful amalgam of these interests and provides both the clinician and research worker with an up-to-date account of the recent trends concerning cataract. This monograph in no way seeks to provide definitive answers, but points the way to where further advances are likely to occur. As the Chairman, Antoinette Pirie, points out, the very success of cataract extraction has diminished the interest and activity shown in fundamental research in the past. The various papers go some way to distinguish between nuclear and cortical cataracts, and an assessment is attempted of the nature and deposition of proteins. Similarly, the role of membranes and enzyme activities is also described. It is the practice of the Ciba Foundation to publish the discussions after the papers and this custom is continued here. Indeed, these embellish the text of the original paper with critical analysis. This book can be recommended without reservation to all ophthalmologists.

P. J. HOLMES SELLERS

Lecture Notes on Ophthalmology. 5th ed., 1974. By P. D. TREVOR-ROPER. 1974. Pp. 125, figs. Blackwell, Oxford (£1.60)

The necessity for a fifth edition of this tiny book confirms its value to medical students to whom it can be strongly recommended.

BARRIE JAY

Science and Blindness: Retrospective and Prospective. Edited by M. D. GRAHAM. 1973. Pp. 212, figs. American Foundation for Blind Inc., New York (No price given)

This book comprises the collected papers and discussions from the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the American Foundation for the Blind.

It contains valuable material on the demography of blindness, psychosocial and educational research, the evaluation of visually impaired children, the preparation of visually impaired persons for the professions, and the interaction of research and social policy. There are also papers on prosthetics, blindness systems, sensory supplementation, and the market aspects of bio-medical research. The proceedings conclude with an international seminar, and there is a moving speech by the late Lord Fraser.

This volume can be highly recommended for workers in the field of blindness and its related problems.

REDMOND SMITH

Note

VI Afro-Asian Congress of Ophthalmology

Madras, India, 4 to 8 January 1976

The main subjects to be discussed include endemic eye diseases, corneal surgery and eye banks in developing countries, modern trends in the treatment of retinal

detachment, recent advances in ocular therapeutics, and lesions of the visual pathway. Those interested may write to Dr J. Agarwal, Organizing Secretary, 29C Edward Elliotts Road, Madras-4, India, for further particulars.