Book reviews

Atlas of Strabismus. 3rd edn. By GUNTER K. VON NOORDEN. 1977. Pp. 211, 135 figs., refs. Kimpton, London (£25.20)

The purpose of this book is to provide 'an introduction to oculomotor problems for ophthalmologists'. It gives a résumé of the relevant anatomy and physiology, and then describes in adequate detail the necessary tests to form a diagnosis. All sections are illustrated with clean and detailed diagrams, which provide a unique and excellent teaching method on this subject—true to the book title.

The author states that the text has been updated, for example, in Section 4, Fundus appearance in cyclo-deviations; Section 5 Estimation of generated muscle force, nystagmus compensation (blockage) syndrome, and skew deviation; and Section 7 Generalised fibrosis of extraocular muscles. There are 7 further references and some new figures. The book neither pretends to nor does deal with therapy or with detailed explanations and physiology of oculomotor problems. It recommends for further studies Burian and Van Noorden's *Binocular Vision and Ocular Motility*. It would certainly act as an adequate primer for this more comprehensive book. However, it serves as a useful and clear text book for ophthalmologists wishing to learn primarily the diagnosis of strabismus and oculomotor problems, with minimal reference to management.

Orthoptic students at the intermediate level will find it a useful textbook, and with these items of reference it is a comprehensive text. Those needing a deeper understanding (aetiology, treatment) would have to read further and more extensive literature, as the author states in the preface.

GORDON V. CATFORD

Argon Laser Photocoagulation. By H. CHRISTIAN ZWENG AND HUNTER L. LITTLE. 1977. Pp. 319, figs., tables, refs. Henry Kimpton, London (£34.00)

This book is compiled from the experiences of 2 of the foremost argon laser therapists. It describes the characteristics of lasers and their theoretical capabilities, briefly describes argon lasers now available, and gives the histopathology of laser lesions. The preparation of the patient for laser coagulation and the method of documentation of laser treatment are described.

The classification and indications for photocoagulation of macular diseases and retinal vascular diseases are described in considerable detail together with the results obtained from treatment. The authors also discuss the management of patients with rubeosis, tumours, diseases of the iris and conjunctiva, and also the complications associated with laser coagulation.

This book should be compulsory reading for anyone beginning to use the argon laser for either retinal or other treatments. It is an excellent catalogue of lesions that are potentially treatable with the laser, and most important of all, it gives the possible results obtained

from the correct use of this instrument. It provides an excellent reference book and should be on the shelves of any laser or potential laser therapist.

A. M. HAMILTON

Scientific Foundations of Ophthalmology. Edited by EDWARD S. PERKINS and DAVID W. HILL. 1977. Pp. 337, figs., tables, refs. William Heinemann, London (£25)

This well-illustrated book contains a collection of essays by 51 invited authors covering a variety of topics on structure, function and pathology, clinical investigation, and treatment. The subjects chosen supplement the established textbooks in matters which are of particular interest at the present time. The clear and concise presentation quickly advances the reader's knowledge. Well-chosen references give an excellent guide to further reading. The essays have great value not only to the established practitioner but also to those undergoing advanced training, since contemporary knowledge is examined in all higher qualifications.

The book does not claim to be comprehensive but provides insight into the scientific background of important areas of ophthalmology and shows how this science can be applied to clinical management. In some fields advance is so rapid that revision will be required quite soon. It is to be hoped that the authors will have the energy and selective skill to produce a new edition within a few years, when, without doubt, other subjects will need to be presented.

Sir Stewart Duke-Elder says in his foreword, 'This is a good, indeed, an excellent book . . . there need be no hesitation in recommending it warmly to ophthalmologists and neurologists who are interested in such subjects. It undoubtedly fills a much felt want.' With these comments I am in full agreement. In fact, readers from disciplines other than ophthalmology and neurology would also find much to interest them.

M. J. ROPER-HALL

Spatial Contrast. Report of a Workshop held in Amsterdam, January 1976. Edited by H. SPEKREIJSE and L. H. VAN DER TWEEL. 1977. Pp. 153, figs., refs. North-Holland, Amsterdam (US\$55.00)

This slim paperback of 153 pages is a report of a Workshop held in 1976 in Amsterdam. It was attended by 40 scientists, who contribute 36 chapters. During the last 2 decades a number of visual scientists have used sinusoidal grating patterns of specified spatial frequency and contrast to investigate visual function. The approach is powerful, for it permits Fourier analysis to be used in interpretation and modelmaking and provides a common conceptual framework for neurophysiologists, psychologists, and ophthalmologists. It has produced an impressive body of knowledge and has considerable further promise both for scientific and clinical investigation.

The chapters cover psychophysics, electrophysiology,