on fitting hard contact lenses includes the Dyer and Boyd methods. Spun-cast and lathe-cut soft lenses are discussed with the fitting methods of both, and also the use of therapeutic soft lenses. There are chapters on CAB and silicone lenses, scleral lenses, and intraocular lenses. This is a comprehensive book, recommended for anyone interested in fitting contact lenses.

M. S. WILSON

Handbook of Pediatric Ophthalmology. Ed. STEPHEN S. FEMAN and ROBERT D. REINECKE. Pp. 196. £12.65. Grune & Stratton: New York. 1978.

This handbook is intended to supply the reader with a broad overview and a basic understanding of paediatric ophthalmology. The writing of it was stimulated by the editors' contact with medical students at the stage of grasping the basic problems in ophthalmology. The book succeeds in its intention and will be a useful introduction for medical students and also to others such as orthoptists, opticians, paediatricians, and other readers interested in children with eye disease. There is a useful chapter on principles and examples in ophthalmic genetics, which again will be of interest to those trying to grasp the subject. The references are basic and useful, but the illustrations, mainly drawings, may to some degree detract from the book. However, the book is well balanced and should prove popular. DAVID TAYLOR

Therapeutic Systems: Pattern-Specific Drug Delivery: Concept and Development. By KLAUS HEILMANN. Pp. 143. DM38. George Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart. 1978.

This short book is a revised English-language edition of a text originally published in German in 1977. It outlines the principles behind, and applications of, metered and 'organ-specific' drug delivery systems. As a large section describes the application of this principle (used clinically as the Ocusert system) to the eye, the book is of considerable interest to ophthalmologists. The author is professor of ophthalmology in Munich and secretary general of the International Society for the Advancement of Therapeutics. Many of the principles and devices he outlines were developed by the ALZA Corporation, founded by Al Zaffaroni, whose leading role in this field the author acknowledges.

The book may be divided into 3 sections. The first includes definitions, giving explanation of words such as 'biopharmaceutics' and 'liberation', and differentiating between pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. It describes the principle behind various types of 'therapeutic systems' and devices, by which metered-dose continuous delivery of a drug may be delivered either locally or systemically. The second section describes therapeutic systems for systemic use such as the infusion system for intravascular infusion of drugs in solution, the gastrointestinal therapeutic system (a trial of the acetazolamide gastrointestinal therapeutic system being recently reported), and the transdermal therapeutic system. The third section describes therapeutic systems for local use. Ophthalmic therapeutic systems are

described in some detail. When describing the (pilocarpine) Ocusert, the author draws on his own experiences. The possible role of ocular therapeutic systems in the treatment of infective and inflammatory disease of the eye is also described.

The book concludes with a glossary of biopharmaceutical terms and a useful bibliography. It is easy to read and makes good use of diagrams to illustrate points made in the text. It should make interesting reading for the general ophthalmologist who wishes to improve his knowledge of the background and principles by which these 'therapeutic systems' work.

ROGER HITCHINGS

Obituary

J. A. Corkey, MD, FRCSI, DOMS

Mr J. A. Corkey, formerly senior ophthalmic surgeon at the Eye Clinic, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, died suddenly on 7 March. He was 72.

Joseph Allison Corkey was born in the Manse, Cullybackey, Co. Antrim. Educated at Royal Belfast Academical Institution and Queen's University, Belfast, he graduated in medicine with first class honours in 1930. He represented his school and university at rugby. After holding house appointments at the Royal Victoria Hospital he was appointed a demonstrator in pathology for a year, during which time his interests turned to ophthalmology. After postgraduate study and training in Vienna and the Western Ophthalmic Hospital, London, he obtained the MD, FRCSI, and DOMS.

Mr Corkey was appointed to the ophthalmic staff of the Benn Ulster Eye and Ear Hospital in 1934 and ophthalmic surgeon to the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1939. He was senior ophthalmic surgeon at the Eye and Ear Clinic, Royal Victoria Hospital, from its opening in 1965 until his retirement in 1972. During this period he was also lecturer in ophthalmology to Queen's University, Belfast, and was responsible for undergraduate and postgraduate training, making notable contributions to the specialty. A member of many medical societies, he was also an elder of the church, at which his father had formerly been senior minister, and an enthusiastic Rotarian. As a member of many committees his quiet and considered opinion was always welcome. He was honorary secretary for many years of the Board of Governors of 'Inst', and a member of convocation of Queen's University, Belfast. Active in BMA matters, he was formerly chairman of the Belfast Division and chairman of the Northern Ireland Council. In recognition of his services he was elected a fellow of the Association in 1971. He was also chairman of the Medical Staff Committee of Royal Victoria Hospital during 1963-65, and was a past president of the Ulster Medical Society.

In addition to his active involvement in many medical and social activities he retained a life-long interest in his specialty and was the Northern Ireland representative on the Faculty of Ophthalmologists for many years and the Ophthalmic Group Committee of the BMA. He