The book is profusely illustrated by first-class line drawings and also by black-and-white photographs. The poor quality of some of the latter is, however, more than compensated by the 20 Master Viewer stereoscopic reels that accompany the book. Although the book will be of limited interest to the general ophthalmologist, it is highly recommended for those interested in closed intraocular microsurgical techniques.

J. J. KANSKI

Pediatric Ophthalmology Practice. By EUGENE M. HELVESTON and FORREST D. ELLIS. Pp. 301. £31.00. C. V. Mosby: London. 1980.

The authors and their publishers have produced a well finished text on some aspects of paediatric ophthalmology. The style of the book is graphic, with the authors illustrating much of the text with drawings, diagrams, tables, and photographs, many of which are useful. Perhaps even as much as three-fifths of the pages are taken up in this way, with the result that the reader is left in little doubt about the authors' views on the 'surgical' topics to which most of their attention has been directed.

After a description of some techniques of examination the authors give a brief review of strabismus and amblyopia followed by a traditional account of congenital cataract, nasolacrimal abnormalities, glaucoma, ptosis, orbital abnormalities, and trauma, leaving some 70 pages for primarily nonsurgical topics. Surgical details are given in many instances, but the very size of this book and the breadth of topics covered precludes much discussion about management. There are 47 references at the end of the book.

It is refreshing to find a section (albeit orthodox and rather impractical) on dyslexia in a book written by ophthalmologists, and this may perhaps mark the beginning of a trend away from insipid technical manuals on the conditions that afflict some of our patients. It is a shame that a text on children's eye diseases should spare so few words for those medical conditions with their systemic associations that are so testing of the physician and to which many pay lip service as exemplifying the co-operative effort between paediatrician and ophthalmologist, but the authors have certainly tried to cover some ground in this respect.

Altogether this book is best for the tyro ophthalmologist and those in allied professions. Although it may not find itself on the bookshelf of more experienced ophthalmologists with access to other texts, the book may be read by many who wish to obtain an overview of one of the several topics covered.

DAVID TAYLOR

Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series 22. Glaucoma Symposium: Diagnosis and Therapy, Amsterdam 1979. Ed. ERIK L. GREVE. Pp. 419. US\$92.00. W. Junk: The Hague, Netherlands. 1980.

This book consists of the papers and panel discussions heard at the 1979 Glaucoma Conference in Amsterdam. The conference was organised by Dr Erik I. Greve, who brought together acknowledged experts in glaucoma from Europe and the USA. The book's appearance nearly 12 months later represents no mean editorial feat,

although this delay does mean that some of the areas discussed will now be out of date.

The conference dwelt on a number of specific topics in glaucoma. The subjects covered in the papers include visual fields, optic nerve, anterior chamber angle, and medical and surgical therapy. Additionally panel discussions on narrow-angle glaucoma and glaucoma, cataract, and vitreous are presented. The papers tended to be review articles presented by acknowledged experts in the field. The best of these gave an up-to-date account of the subject together with sufficient source material to encourage further reading. Some articles, however, were more anecdotal, with little source material.

The 2 panel discussions, each led by Erik Greve, were noteworthy for their wide ranging nature, case presentations, and extensive references.

The book provides useful accounts of many aspects of glaucoma and would be of benefit to the general ophthalmologist. Dr Greve is to be congratulated on making the proceedings of this symposium available to a wider audience.

ROGER A. HITCHINGS

Ophthalmology. By FRITZ HOLLWICH. Pp. 336. £10.75. Year Book Medical Publishers: London. 1979.

This small ophthalmology textbook is aimed at general practitioners, medical students, and junior ophthalmic residents. The present edition was translated from the original German version. It attempts to be comprehensive and yet concise, but in so doing tends to fall some way between the two. Nevertheless it does provide a useful reference to a wide variety of ophthalmic conditions.

The format of the book, being pocket-sized, and the clear way in which it is laid out are factors in its favour. The most positive feature, however, is the excellent, clear diagrams and photographs, which abound. Rarely does one have a small textbook with so many illustrations of high quality. There is no doubt that the text must lose something in its translation from the original German. This is especially noticeable in the chapters covering the basic sciences, where some points are not very clearly explained, and may well confuse the new student. Suggested treatments of some ocular diseases do sometimes vary from those which tend to be practised in Great Britain, but a different approach especially if efficacious, should not be condemned.

In short, this is a useful, well illustrated little handbook, of particular value for reference. However, its main failing is the attempt to increase the content while losing in the process spontaneity and clarity, factors which are all important to someone wishing to obtain only a basic knowledge of a highly specialised subject.

C. S. MIGDAL

Complications in Ophthalmic Surgery. Eds. S. R. WALTMAN and T. KRUPIN. Pp. 344. £24.25. Harper and Row: London. 1980.

The editors of this book set themselves the immensely difficult task of writing a book on ophthalmic surgical

complications. Each section of ophthalmology has been given a separate chapter and a separate author, so that there is some loss of continuity. Most chapters, however, are easy to read and are neatly and helpfully illustrated.

The difficulty about this book is that it is almost impossible to talk about complications without giving a complete description of the surgical procedure under discussion, so that one tends to end up with a mammoth book on surgical technique. Some authors assume that the techniques they are discussing are performed to a set standard which will be recognised and omit the description of the basic procedure, confining themselves to the management of the complications. Sophisticated surgeons would have no difficulty in managing this arrangement, but a surgeon in sore need of information may well find that some vital link had been omitted.

The other surprising aspect of the text is that it includes not only interesting and helpful discussions about the frontiers of ophthalmic surgery (vitrectomy, implants, etc.) but also surgical procedures which for most of us have been relegated to ancient history—for example, Elliott's trephination and iridenclesis. It is this sort of imbalance which unsettles a reader who is looking for modern approaches to surgical problems rather than a survey of all that might be possible.

A book of this sort is always interesting to those who are keen on surgical technique, but it will probably have a limited readership among those studying for higher examinations.

ARTHUR D. MCG. STEELE

Current Topics in Eye Research. Vol. 2. Eds. JOSÉ A. ZADUNAISKY and HUGH DAVSON. Pp. 308. £24.80. Academic Press: London. 1980.

This second volume is on topics associated with the retina. The first chapter deals with excitation and adaptation of the retina; the author discusses several hypotheses of transduction and gives a detailed account of the properties of different types of retinal cells. Cyclic nucleotide metabolism is covered in the second chapter, and the importance of resolving the action of cyclic guanosine phosphate is stressed. In the next chapter the role of the pigments melanin and lipofuscin are extensively discussed. This is followed by the pathophysiology of the vasculature of the optic disc and choroid. Some interesting data on the magnitude of choroidal blood flow are given. The final chapter deals with autoimmunity and the retina. A detailed account of the various types of tissue specific antigens present in the retina is given, and also the part that uveoretinal autoimmunity may play in human disease is discussed. An interesting example of the discussion is the suggestion that sympathetic ophthalmia may be possibly induced in some way by retinal antigens.

R. F. FISHER

Intraocular Lens Implants in Children. By DAVID A. HILES. Pp. 275. £13.20. Academic Press: London. 1980.

Few ophthalmologists have much experience of lens implantation in children, and many who approve of lens implantation in adults strongly disprove of its use in

children. Nevertheless, there has been little advance in the prevention of amblyopia in children with unilateral cataract. Contact lenses have proved disappointing and often unmanageable in children under 10 years, and if intraocular lens implantation is still experimental it deserves a fair trial.

On the whole the paediatric eye tolerates an IOL well, and if one considers traumatic aphakia and lens insertion in an older child, either iris clip or anterior chamber, the results in capable hands are promising. Dr Hiles has gathered material from a symposium held in Los Angeles in April 1979 and has called on those with most experience in this field of surgery, namely, Cornelius Binkhorst, D. P. Choyce, and S. N. Federov. He himself has written a detailed chapter on indications, techniques, and complications, which is both thorough and well presented.

The book may have a somewhat limited appeal, but for those interested in the visual rehabilitation of children with traumatic or unilateral cataract it is well worth careful study.

NEIL L. DALLAS

Ophthalmic Nursing: Its Practice and Management. By F. C. E. ROOKE, P. J. ROTHWELL, D. F. WOODHOUSE. Pp. 242. £4.95. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1980.

In reviewing the contents of this book I find it difficult to envisage the role of the nurses for whom it was written. The subject matter is wide ranging and presented in a readable manner. It is a useful addition to a library and as a general reference book for nurses working in an eye unit of a general hospital or in an industrial work setting, where the full range of ophthalmic services are not necessarily provided and where there is a lack of ophthalmic trained nurses to advise on the management of patients and the practice of specialist nursing skills.

M. D. TICKNER

Guidelines for Programmes for the Prevention of Blindness. Pp. 47. Sw.fr.10. WHO: Geneva. 1979.

This short volume sets out the goals and strategies to be achieved in preventing blindness in all parts of the world. It emphasises the importance of eliminating avoidable blindness and the importance of giving priority to the worst affected communities. A national policy is necessary for the prevention of blindness, and all resources must be employed. Primary, secondary, and tertiary eye care must be used, and the importance of teaching ophthalmology in the undergraduate medical student syllabus is emphasised. It is important to organise programmes for treating specific diseases such as trachoma, nutritional blindness, onchocerciasis, and cataract.

Members of the population must be involved in the implementation of antiblindness programmes, and it is important that primary health workers should take part. Trained, full-time ophthalmic assistants may be useful where there is a shortage of ophthalmologists. Budgetary provisions for prevention of blindness must receive consideration, and evaluation of the effects of prevention of blindness must always be undertaken.

A. G. CROSS