multiauthor book, the quality is uneven. Some chapters are excellent, others are not so objective, containing a particular bias or ideas that are either untried or do not bear relevance to the general management of the particular ophthalmic problem.

The chapters on pre-ocular tear film abnormalities, extended wear soft contact lenses, the management of posterior ocular injuries, and advances in the pharmacological treatment of glaucoma are particularly good, informative, well written, and of great help to practising ophthalmologists. Although fungal keratitis is not common in the United Kingdom, the chapter on this is of interest to all and a useful, up-to-date reference. Personal bias rather than objective knowledge is contained in the chapter on herpetic eye disease. The table on keratouveitis scoring is largely untried and is not of relevance to the general ophthalmologist, and the diagram on the disease progression is misleading. Personal bias is also seen in the chapter on intraocular lens implantation in children. Iris clip lenses are becoming unpopular because of problems inherent in their insertion and stability and the difficulty of adequate retinal examination. Should such a lens be promoted when there are now safer lenses, and when they are associated with a 38% endothelial cell loss, which must carry a poor prognosis for long-term corneal clarity? One slight criticism of the excellent chapter on the management of thyroid ophthalmology is that more emphasis should have been put on the measurement of the vision as an indication of the effects of orbital compression, particularly in cases where proptosis is not prominent (concealed exophthalmus).

Any elective book such as this leaves many questions unanswered, but it achieves its aim in informing on the subject it deals with, acting as a quick practical reference, and is highly recommended, although it is expensive. It will form a useful and essential contribution to all medical libraries.

JAMES MCGILL

Third International Symposium of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery of the Eye and Adnexa. Eds. SHERRELL J. ASTON, ALBERT HORNBLOSS, MURRAY A. MELTZER, THOMAS D. REES. Pp 362. £48.25. Williams and Wilkins: London. 1982.

This book is a collection of chapters on ophthalmic plastic surgery written by different authors who contributed these articles at the Third International Oculo Plastic Conference of the Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital. It is a great tribute to the organisers that they collected such an impressive number of participants distinguished in a particular field. Such contributors include Beard on ptosis, Castanares on cosmetic surgery, Mustarde on lid reconstruction, Smith on blow-out fractures, Veirs on lacrimal repair, Wright on orbital surgery, and Zacarian on cryotherapy.

The disadvantage of most such symposium series is the difficulty of producing a comprehensive coverage of the subject, but the editors have overcome this to a remarkable degree by introducing some controversial articles such as the ones by Jackson on nasolacrimal duct reconstruction, Puterman on blow-out fractures, and Litton on cosmetic chemosurgery, and also by limiting the contributions on any

one subject. The treatment of adnexal tumours is thus covered by short separate chapters on cryotherapy, surgery, radiotherapy, Moh's technique of microscopically controlled excision, and the management of advanced cancer, which gives an overall view of the available forms of treatment.

Inevitably different authors examine their topics in different detail and the quoted bibliographies vary from extensive to nil. The subjects covered range from a fascinating history of plastic surgery in the orbital region to major craniofacial surgery and include articles on many ophthalmic plastic surgery problems, but this should in no way be regarded as a comprehensive textbook. It is, however, a very interesting collection of the current views of a large number of experts in their own field and as such is well worth reading.

J. R. O. COLLIN

Ophthalmology Made Ridiculously Simple. By STEPHEN GOLDBERG. Pp. 82. £7.00. Medmaster: Miami, Florida, 1982.

The author's credentials are his post as associate professor in the Department of Anatomy and Family Medicine in the University of Miami, with board certification in ophthalmology, and a training in neurology. His audience is the nonophthalmologist, and the perspective is that of a family physician.

About a quarter of the 82-page slim paperback is occupied by chapter 9, 'Clinical review,' which matches symptoms with diagnoses and depicts in 34 simple line drawings a wide range of external and internal eye diseases. Chapter 7 is an alphabetical list of systemic diseases with their ocular features. Ophthalmic techniques, from visual acuity testing to indirect ophthalmoscopy, are collected together in chapter 8. The first half dozen chapters deal with anatomy, visual disorders (i.e., refractive errors and strabismus), the red eye, ocular trauma, retinal disease, and neuro-ophthalmology.

This small book is surprisingly comprehensive and up to date: radial keratotomy for myopia receives a cautious mention, with about as many reservations as intraocular lenses. The applanation tonometer is ignored, in favour of the Schiøtz instrument ('sterilised' by an alcohol wipe). The subject is not made ridiculous; it is a serious book interspersed with a few amusing drawings in the early chapters, and a few quips like advising breath mints if you do ophthalmoscopy on the patient's left eye with your right eye. The lack of colour pictures is a handicap in a colourful specialty.

The author has some success in simplifying the subject for students in the USA, deprived of clinical instruction—'most medical schools do not have a required course in ophthalmology.' Naturally I would advocate reinstatement of an important subject, though that would deprive us in Britain of some keen elective students who enliven our summer months.

CALBERT I. PHILLIPS

Focus on Vision. By R. A. WEALE. Pp. 194. £5.75. Hodder and Stoughton: Sevenoaks, Kent. 1982.

This is a most stimulating book. To read it is rather like going on a conducted coach tour through vaguely (as far as