Der Augenarzt. Vol. 8. By KARL VELHAGEN. Pp. 460. 162 M. Georg Thieme: Leipzig. 1982.

Volume 8 of this comprehensive series of ophthalmic textbooks is a disappointment for several reasons. It is composed of 4 chapters only 2 of which are connected by a common theme, and this uneven mixture of subject matter, still favoured by literature coming from East and West Germany, has for long proved unacceptable to British readers.

The first 2 chapters are related to fundus conditions; Hollwich and Krebs discuss disorders of the optic disc, and Hollwich describes disorders of the retina. Both articles are beautifully illustrated by photographs in colour and black and white. The text is lengthy and ponderous with extensive references, although sadly there are very few recent ones. More surprising in a textbook that should be contemporary is the almost complete absence of fluorescein angiography in the portrayal of fundus disease and the lack of any firm guidelines on modern therapeutic techniques such as the use of the laser. A chapter on the diagnostic use of nuclear medicine in ophthalmology by Lommatzsch, Correns, Hallermann, and Pink discusses in detail the principles of therapy and concentrates mainly on the ^{32}P test and on the investigation of endocrine orbitopathy, but the text is more for the specialist in nuclear medicine than for the ophthalmologist. The final chapter by Velhagen discusses the relationship between ophthalmology and psychiatry, a subject very much neglected in ophthalmic training and of considerable interest.

There are other criticisms of less importance that can be levelled at this production and mainly concern the correlation between the references and the text and the lay-out of the references themselves, but they serve only to reinforce the view that this is a dinosaur of a textbook, ancient in its conception and already out of date when it was published.

T. J. FFYTCH

Congenital Anomalies of the Optic Disc. By GARY BROWN AND WILLIAM TASMAN. Pp. 289. US\$44.50. Grune and Stratton: New York. 1983.

This concise, well referenced monograph is intended to serve as an up-to-date compilation of congenital abnormalities visible at the optic disc. It makes use of recent angiographic, histopathological, and animal studies to shed new light on some old problems. It is copiously illustrated and textually to the point. The 7 sections (anatomy, embryology, vascular anomalies, excavated and colobomatous discs, size abnormalities, tumours, and other) encompass the spectrum of congenital abnormalities visible at the human optic disc. Points of especial interest include a comprehensive section on vascular anomalies, a discussion on theories behind serous retinal detachments associated with optic disc pits, and the association between morning glory discs and colobomas. As might be expected in any comprehensive text, the many associations with congenital abnormalities are fully listed. There are, for example, 69 systemic associations with retinochoroidal and/or iris colobomas. For those interested in this subject the book is a useful source of information.

ROGER A. HITCHINGS

Catalog of the Bernard Becker, M.D. Collection in Ophthalmology. 2nd edn. By CHRISTOPHER HOOLIHAN AND MARK F. WEIMER. Pp. 112. No price given. Washington School of Medicine Library: St. Louis, Missouri. 1983.

The catalogue of the Bernard Becker book collection in ophthalmology has been presented to the editor by the author and in turn placed in the library of our Institute. There are 430 entries of book titles, which include full title-page description, details of pagination, bibliographic references, and a carefully prepared annotation for each volume. The catalogue forms a mirror of the historic past and is in itself a jewel among the treasures it describes. The world of ophthalmology should be grateful to Bernard Becker for his industry and for his interest in past endeavours to solve the problems of our specialty, likewise for his generosity in his willingness to share the fruits of his hobby with like-minded colleagues. His comprehensive collection was bequeathed to the Washington University School of Medicine Library, St Louis, where it lies invitingly in quiet and elegant surroundings.

STEPHEN MILLER

Ultrasonic Tissue Characterization. Eds. J. M. THIJSEN AND D. NICHOLAS. Pp. 160. US\$34.50. Martinus Nijhoff: The Hague, Netherlands. 1982.

This book contains the proceedings of the Second European Communities Workshop on ultrasonic tissue characterisation. Although it includes some interesting work, it lacks many of the characteristics of a reasonable text; many of the papers are written in poor English, making comprehension difficult, and on occasions the typeface is illegibly small.

However, interesting papers are to be found, for example, on estimation of ultrasonic parameters of tissues such as attenuation of sound by tissues and acoustic impedances of tissues. Hopefully such parameters, being intrinsic to the tissue itself, may prove useful medically. Papers on transducer design for specific purposes are included, as are techniques for measurement of membrane thickness. Other topics considered include image analysis and enhancement, tissue motion studies, and spectral analysis of echoes. Several of the papers are reviews of ongoing work at various centres. Approximately one-quarter of the 16 papers deal specifically with ophthalmology.

The book is unlikely to appeal to most ophthalmologists but may prove worthwhile reading to those working in the field of ultrasonic tissue characterisation.

MARIE RESTORI

Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series 34. Physiological and Pathological Aspects of Eye Movements. Proceedings of a Workshop held at the Pont d'Oye Castle, Habay-la-Neuve, 1982. Eds. A. ROUCOUX AND M. CROMMELINCK. Pp. 448. Dfl.175.00. W. Junk: The Hague. 1982.

This book represents the proceedings of a Workshop held at the Pont d'Oye Castle in Belgium in March 1982. Congratulations are first necessary for the rapidity of publication, an essential ingredient for a subject moving as

rapidly as eye movement physiology. Secondly the meeting was sponsored by the European Communities, and served as the editors state, to bring together specialists of 'oculomotricity' from Europe and North America. This apparently new term may well be appropriate, in signifying how far this field has descended (or ascended) into the realms of basic science, and the number of ophthalmologists contributing is minimal.

Brief chapters are concerned with (1) gaze displacement in man, (2) the vestibulo-ocular reflex, (3) the optokinetic reflex, (4) effects of lesions on VER and OKN, (5) visuo-vestibular interaction, (6) saccadic system, (7) eye-head co-ordination. Many of the world's leading authorities are numbered as contributors, and these include neurologists, neurophysiologists, biomedical engineers, and psychologists.

Although some understanding of eye movements is advisable for ophthalmologists, the present text would seem to be aimed at those with a deeper interest in this complex subject.

M. D. SANDERS

Clinical Ophthalmology: A Text and Colour Atlas. By JAMES L. KENNERLEY BANKES. Pp. 125. £9.95. Churchill Livingstone: London. 1982.

The book is divided into 15 short chapters starting with the examination of the eye, continuing with chapters on refractive errors, rapid changes in refractive errors, colour vision defects and various other pathological conditions, and concluding with disorders of the optic nerve and visual pathways. The layout is most unusual for a medical textbook, being more akin to a brochure. Glossy paper is used, the text is brief and heavily captioned, and there are coloured photographs on most pages. The general effect is pleasing and probably very attractive to beginners, especially medical students, casualty officers and general practitioners. A small textbook on a big subject should include as many common conditions as possible and leave out most of the rare ones. The selection of material is not easy, but the author has managed very well in his 120 pages.

REDMOND J. H. SMITH

Recent Advances in Ophthalmology. Ed. SIDNEY I. DAVIDSON. Pp 113, £9.95. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1982.

It is 8 years since the last edition of *Recent Advances* and there have been considerable changes in ophthalmology. The intention of the new editor is to provide an overall view of recent literature for the general ophthalmologist, but with the complete omission of the anterior segment the aims of this volume are far from being fulfilled.

The 6 chapters cover vitreous and retina, glaucoma, ocular motility, medical ophthalmology, ocular therapeutics, and the orbit, including the diagnosis of dysthyroid eye disease. Vitreous and retina are comprehensively covered by John Scott in a didactic chapter, with the aetiology of detachment and the important Lincoff and Gieser paper on finding the hole. He stresses the importance of prophylaxis and its lack of complications. The surgical procedures include useful hints on the use of silicone oil, although its use will probably still remain limited to certain centres even though the initial hostility to

the technique is lessening. He concludes with a questionable plea for open-sky vitrectomy. Three-quarters of the glaucoma section is devoted to the mechanism of angle closure—a disproportionate amount. The excellent chapter on ocular motility is exactly what one hopes to find in this volume. It takes the uninitiated through the complexities of modern thinking and should dispel the idea that squints are small, medium, and large and that they need commensurate surgical correction. The medical ophthalmology chapter proves the need for specialist centres if the problems of inflammatory and vascular diseases are to be understood, and for a closer co-operation between the clinician and pathologist. Ocular therapeutics covers the use of Ocuserts and soft contact lenses as drug delivery systems and summarises the present state of prostaglandins and beta-adrenergic blocking agents. The orbital chapter emphasises the importance of computerised tomography, which with thyroid function tests can increase the accuracy of diagnosis of orbital disease to well over 90%.

The book is only one-third of the size of the fourth and fifth editions, so that the lack of the anterior segment chapter is not the only reason for its slimness. In fairness it must be said that it is intended to publish more frequent editions, which should help to redress the balance.

M. G. GLASSPOOL

Presurgical Evaluation of Eyes with Opaque Media. By DWAIN GORDON FULLER and WILLIAM L. HUTTON. Pp. 228. US\$39.50. Grune and Stratton: New York. 1982.

The book's aim is to serve as a practical guide for ophthalmologists evaluating eyes with opaque media. The first section deals with the initial clinical evaluation of patients, with a subsection devoted to retinal function tests. The following 3 sections cover electrophysiological tests and give a comprehensive and clear description of the significance of findings. The ultrasound section, occupying over half of the total text, is a refreshing description of the authors' experiences of their findings in eyes containing vitreous opacities. Two subsections particularly useful to those beginning in the world of ophthalmic ultrasound concern the ultrasonic appearance of eyes having had previous surgery and artefacts. Other sections are devoted to foreign bodies, trauma, and paediatric assessment.

This book is comprehensive and easy to read. It clearly sets out the scientific foundation of ocular evaluation and will hopefully form a sound basis on which the ophthalmologist can build his clinical problem solving—that is, which of the tests will be of value for a given clinical problem, and what surgical approach, if any, is appropriate thereafter.

MARIE RESTORI
DAVID MCLEOD

Note

Implantlens congress

The Third European Intraocular Implantlens Council Congress will be held on 11-14 September 1984 at Harrogate. Details from Miss J. Wilson, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Harrogate General Hospital, Knaresborough Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.