Book reviews

end has recently multiplied, possibly owing to the widespread desire for further knowledge engendered among lay persons by the media. The present work covers the topic in an interesting and readable manner, and, while there are matters of emphasis with which there will always be some debate, the majority of topics are well and accurately covered. It is unlikely that the practising ophthalmologist will find himself at odds with what is stated. The language is appropriately non-technical, though the old difficulty of analogies of eyes with cameras, in this case a television camera, arises because one wonders in fact how many lay people do know how a camera works, let alone an electronic one.

Certainly this reviewer would be very happy to know that his patients had read this book, and perhaps even happier if he could be sure that the general practitioner and primary health care personnel had also done so.

M J GILKES

Ophthalmology. 2nd revised edition. By FRITZ HOLLWICH. Pp. 363. DM 29.80. Georg Thieme Verlag: Stuttgart. 1985.

This concise textbook of 363 pages provides an excellent basic introduction to ophthalmology. Despite its relatively small size it contains an immense amount of ophthalmic information, presented in a lucid and succinct manner and in an eminently readable form. The book is well organised, with introductory chapters on ocular and adnexal anatomy and physiology. Succeeding chapters systematically describe diseases of the various components of the eye, the ocular adnexae, and the orbit. Chapters are also devoted to glaucoma, strabismus, and disorders of the visual pathways, and useful sections are included on the eye and systemic disease and rehabilitation of the blind.

The information is clearly and logically presented and superbly illustrated by a wealth of line diagrams, schematic representations, and black-and-white photographs of quite exceptional quality. In addition, there are 73 colour figures which illustrate key ophthalmic disorders and occasionally form part of very informative and pertinent case presentations. The ophthalmic information is up to date, and modern therapeutic options and modalities are included in most chapters. Each chapter is followed by a short summary, and, although this is useful to some degree, there is considerable duplication of information, which is probably unnecessary in a book of this size.

In my opinion this is one of the best introductory ophthalmic textbooks and is ideally suited to medical students and those entering specialty training in ophthalmology. It is also enthusiastically recommended for general practitioners or physicians wishing to update their knowledge on current ophthalmic practice.

DESMOND B ARCHER

Cromwell's Glasses. By HOLLY KELLER. Pp. 28. £4.95. Julia MacRae: London. 1985.

Some of the simplest things give the greatest pleasure, and messages written in simple fashion tend to be more powerful. This little book for small children deals with the emotional problems of a young rabbit who has to wear

glasses. It is based on the premise that children who are myopic and do not have to wear glasses tend to be clumsy and unpopular, whereas once they wear glasses the world is all the better for them. As most ophthalmologists know, very many spectacles are inappropriately prescribed for children and often are only necessary for use in the classroom and only rarely for continual use. Clumsiness can rarely be ascribed to myopia.

While some of the rabbits drawn in the book looked like rabbits, the unfortunate victim rabbit, Cromwell, who is to have to wear glasses, had a bifid face (as did several of his relatives), and I suspect that this is the clue to the underlying brain malformation which accounted for the clumsiness and visual defect rather than a need for glasses.

The book is harmless, quite amusing, but not exactly a must for every paediatric ophthalmologist to have on the shelf of his waiting room.

DAVID TAYLOR

Virus Disease of the Eye. By D. L. EASTY. Pp. 350. £30.00. Lloyd-Luke: London. 1985.

This monumental work gives an authoritative, clear account of the types of virus that affect the eye, their structure, and the laboratory techniques used in their detection. There is a good account of the clinical conditions produced by the different viruses, and a comprehensive discussion of the possible mechanism by which the different clinical signs have been caused and the management of each clinical entity. The in-depth discussion of the relevant literature is interesting, unbiased, and highly informative.

The main criticism of the book is that, with such a detailed text, it is sometimes difficult to isolate the relevant facts and obtain a clear concept of the management of a particular disease. This problem could have been overcome by the use of tables of clinical signs and their management, and a summary at the end of each chapter.

There are one or two omissions or small criticisms. For instance in herpes simplex infection the text does not tell how to distinguish between active herpes simplex corneal ulceration and the breakdown of an inert ulcer to cause a recurrent erosion. The management of these two clinical conditions is entirely different. These, though, are minor points and do not detract from the overall excellence of the book. It is well written, highly informative, and should be on the shelves of all eye hospitals, libraries, available to anybody with an interest in ocular infection. It is highly recommended.

JAMES I. MCGILL

Basic Clinical Ophthalmology. By CALBERT I PHILLIPS. Pp. 256. £10.95. Pitman: London. 1984.

This paperback book is described as for the general practitioner and medical student and as an introduction to ophthalmology residents beginning in the specialty. Seventeen chapters by 12 different authors cover the topics of embryology and anatomy, clinical examination, squint, refractive errors, glaucoma, red eye, sudden loss of vision,

progressive loss of vision, neuro-ophthalmology, vascular retinopathies, trauma, eyelids, orbit, watering eye, tropical and hereditary ophthalmology, and preventive and social aspects.

There are many good black-and-white diagrams and photographs but unfortunately only a relatively small number of colour illustrations placed separately in the middle of the book. Colour illustrations are essential in any modern ophthalmology textbook to show the detail of clinical appearances matched with the text. *Basic Clinical Ophthalmology* has unfortunately fallen short here and will irritate the reader by making him refer constantly to another part of the book.

The detail provided is particularly good on clinical examination and glaucoma. In contrast the vascular and diabetic retinopathy chapter has 25 pages without a single adjacent illustration, and trauma has single separated illustrations of corneal abrasion and infected abrasion only, with no illustration of the vital-to-recognise penetrating eye injury. Preventive and social aspects are covered in a useful chapter properly emphasising practical aspects.

The modern undergraduate medical course has expanded significantly in recent years and the time available for ophthalmology, as with all specialties, is limited. The chapter on basic clinical ophthalmology is probably too detailed for most medical students but is well suited to the resident in ophthalmology in his first appointment. The uneven style of the book and the relatively few colour illustrations, separated from the text, divert the reader from a natural flow, which is probably as a result of the multiple authorship. For example, there is less than a page on the clinical presentation of senile cataract, with one illustration, but almost twice as much listing the rare and unusual causes of cataract such as galactosaemia and hypocalcaemia; detail concerning neutralising a spectacle lens, but not a mention in the whole book of colour vision!

In general it is a well laid out text, lacking in colour illustrations, but well suited to the new ophthalmology resident and at a reasonable price.

JAMES L KENNERLEY BANKES

Real Time Ophthalmic Ultrasonography and Biometry. By RICHARD S KOPLIN, MARTIN GERSTEN, BARTON HODES. Pp. 187. US\$24.50. SLACK: New Jersey. 1985.

This well written spiral-bound handbook provides a sensible introduction to the clinician starting out in ophthalmic ultrasonography, covering topics such as 'three dimensional conceptualization,' and the 'indications and limitations of ultrasonic diagnosis.' Some useful diagnostic B scanning hints are to be found at the end of chapter 3. This book reflects the views of the Iowa and Cornell schools of ophthalmic ultrasound, and this has tended to make it particularly non-controversial.

The authors stress that 'ocular sonography is a dynamic process.' It should also be noted that, in differentiating certain lesions, they admit to adding historical information to the equation 'for the purposes of making a presumptive diagnosis.' Pathology of the eye is covered in chapters 9 to

14 and is followed by a chapter dedicated to a 'standardised' A scan technique. The use of A and B scan techniques in the diagnosis of intraocular and orbital tumours is covered in later chapters. Generally the B scan images are disappointing and some of the ultrasonic diagnoses rather fanciful—for example, the alleged demonstration of a choroidal rupture in chapter 14. The oft repeated principle that choroidal separation 'rarely extends posteriorly beyond the vortex vessels' does not accord with either the presented illustrations or the reviewers' experience. The book closes with a practical discussion on axial length measurement of the eye and calculation of lens implant power. References are to be found at the end of the book.

This is a lucid introduction for those intending to become involved in ophthalmic ultrasonography, though it offers no exceptional features in comparison with the several previously published books covering the same field.

MARIE RESTORI
DAVID MCCLEOD

Échographie en Ophtalmologie. 2nd Edn. By J POUJOL. Pp. 79. F 139. Masson: Paris. 1984.

Written in French and soon to be translated into Italian, this book presents the possibilities and limitations of A scan and B scan ultrasonography in the author's experience; Dr Poujol performs nearly 3000 examinations a year. Some useful recommendations for B scan imaging are to be found at the end of chapter 2. Later chapters deal with biometry, methods of making echographic diagnoses, determining causes of error and artefacts, and ultrasonic examinations of the globe. It is refreshing that the author has considered that the ultrasonic appearances of surgical explants are important enough to be covered. Chapter 6 covers orbital examination by ultrasound. Some good images are to be found in this chapter; of particular note are the coronal sections. The book concludes with a page on the indications of ultrasonic examinations and the limitations of the techniques, with a brief look to the future. References are to be found at the back together with an alphabetical index.

This book will be of interest to those fluent in French. It contains some very interesting B scan images of various intraocular and orbital lesions.

MARIE RESTORI
DAVID MCCLEOD

Notes

Cataract and implant meeting

The International Cataract, Implant, and Microsurgical Meeting will be held in Singapore on 29–31 May 1987. This is a joint meeting of the International Intraocular Implant Club and the Asia-Pacific Intraocular Lens Implant Association. This is a post-congress meeting of the 11th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress. Further information from Dr Arthur S M Lim, 3 Mt Elizabeth 0605–0608, Mt Elizabeth Medical Centre, Singapore 0922.