Book reviews

Ophthalmology. Pocket Picture Guides Series. By COLIN M KIRKNESS. Pp. 83. £4.95. Gower: London. 1985.

It is difficult to target the group of readers who would most benefit from this excellent little pocket book of ophthalmology colour pictures. Pocket diary size and 83 pages, it is one of a series of such guides. It consists of a selection of colour photographs, and a few diagrams, of ophthalmological conditions. Almost all the photographs are of high quality and the corneal conditions are especially well depicted, with the exception of pterygium, which is an atypical example. The illustration of buphthalmos is also unsatisfactory, as it shows a rather distant view of an established case with a totally scarred cornea, and the glaucoma disc photograph is somewhat blurred.

Each photograph has an enlarged caption, but of course this cannot be regarded as a text; therefore written information is necessarily slight. Although not comprehensive, this guide has a good range of conditions well illustrated, and the pictures of squint are especially useful. Probably the most effective readership for this book would be informed physicians and general practitioners, for it is an easily carried little ready reference volume.

JAMES L KENNERLEY BANKES

Chandler and Grant's Glaucoma. 3rd Edn. Edited by D. L. EPSTEIN. Pp. 539. US \$60.50. Lea and Febiger: Philadelphia. 1985.

The book is divided into four parts. The first, which is introductory, starts with an excellent section on general considerations including remarks about common symptoms, external influences, including various medicines, and borderline cases with characteristics warning of the possibility of future glaucoma. The remainder of the introductory section gives good advice about the examination of the eye in glaucoma, when to start treatment, and the uses of lasers.

Then follow the three main sections of the book, and multiple authors participate in these. Part 2 deals with the diagnosis and treatment of an extensive range of types of glaucoma, and it is of interest that a special section is allotted to progressive low-tension glaucoma, that most enigmatic manifestation of the disease. Part 3 deals with surgery and its implications and part 4 with the childhood glaucomas.

The book is beautifully presented, clearly written, and has of course an impeccable pedigree. The new principal editor gracefully acknowledges his debt to the two original masters, Chandler and Grant, and is a worthy successor to them.

REDMOND J H SMITH

Documenta Ophthalmologica Proceedings Series 43. Second European Glaucoma Symposium Helsinki, May 1984. Eds. E. L. GREVE, W. LEYDHECKER AND C. RAITTA. Pp. 364. £55.50. Junk: Netherlands. 1985. Researchers in glaucoma, as in other subspecialties in

ophthalmology, may be likened to ants all working away at their chosen site. These workers pursue plans parallel to or divergent from those of other researchers. Every few years the temptation arises to make them down tools and assemble at a convivial spot for a rest, an exchange of ideas and charging of the mental batteries. This period provides an opportunity to swap work stories and assess progress reports. To prevail on worker ants to stop and assemble in this way the temptation must be great. All credit then to Christina Raitta and her colleagues on organising the Second European Glaucoma Symposium at Helsinki held in May 1984. To judge from the number of reports included in these proceedings of the Second European Glaucoma Symposium the venue was tempting indeed. The speakers frequently came from outside Europe, making the meeting truly international.

These proceedings of the Second European Glaucoma Symposium (the first was held in Brighton four years before) can only reflect the bare bones of the meeting. Much of the information exchanged in meetings such as this occurs in the discussion after and around each paper, though such discussions go unreported here.

In reviewing these proceedings a number of topics stand clear of the field. Computerised perimetry is the glaucoma test of the moment and promises to provide a far better follow-up for our glaucoma patients. Flammer suggested, however, that both focal and diffuse loss of visual function could occur in glaucoma (meaning that our conventional visual field tests are only picking up focal visual loss). This possibility could explain the difference in the appearance of the optic disc in different types of glaucoma and the sometimes anomalous and bizarre contrasts in hue discrimination seen in patients with ocular hypertension and glaucoma.

Many beta blockers are trying to assault the timolol citadel, so far without success. The proceedings suggest that this may change. Laser trabeculoplasty continues to attract interest, though none of the papers reported here show really long term results. This is of importance in view of the recent suggestion that the hypotensive effects of laser trabeculoplasty diminish in the long term. Surgical treatment fared better, for two 10-year follow-up studies showed that continued long term intraocular pressure control should be maintained.

As in all meetings such as this the quality of papers reported was variable. There can be little doubt, however, that the workers attending could have only learnt from each other as we learn from them. These proceedings are a useful update over many glaucoma subjects, making worthwhile reading for those with an interest in the subspecialty.

ROGER A HITCHINGS

Notes

Implantlens Council

The Fifth Congress of the European Intraocular Implantlens Council will be held in Jerusalem, Israel, on 13-18 September 1987. Full details from the Congress Secretariat, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel.